LETTERS FROM EUROPE · THE COMEBACK OF RICKY HATTON

THE BIBLE OF BOXING

The RING ®

KLITSCHKO VS. LEGENDS

HOW WOULD WLADIMIR HAVE FARED AGAINST THE GREATS?

EVERLAST

GOLOVKIN HAS ARRIVED
HARD-PUNCHING MIDDLEWEIGHT MAKES BREATHTAKING U.S. DEBUT

BIG WINNERS
WARD, MARTINEZ AND CANELO EMERGE WITH IMPRESSIVE VICTORIES

BIDING HIS TIME
UK'S JOSHUA WEIGHS ALL OPTIONS AFTER WINNING OLYMPIC GOLD

BEST I'VE FACED
THREE-TIME WORLD TITLEHOLDER MARK 'TOO SHARP' JOHNSON

DECEMBER 2012

TRAIN
HARD.
HIT
HARDER.
THE NIKE
HyperKO MP
Available at ATHLETEPS.COM

The RING

CONTENTS / DECEMBER 2012

FEATURES

COVER STORY

42 | KLITSCHKO VS. LEGENDS
HOW WOULD WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO HAVE DONE AGAINST THE GREATEST HEAVYWEIGHTS EVER? HERE'S OUR TAKE.
By Don Stradley

48 | BACK IN THE KLITSCHKO BIZ?
AN HBO EXECUTIVE SAYS THE NETWORK CAN'T IGNORE THE DOMINATING UKRAINIANS, WHO HAVE NOT BEEN EMBRACED IN THE U.S.
By Bernard Fernandez

54 | MONSTER IN OUR MIDST
GENNADY GOLOVKIN'S FIVE-ROUND DESTRUCTION OF GRZEGORZ PROKSA PUT ALL MIDDLEWEIGHTS ON NOTICE.
By Norm Frauenheim

60 | WHAT'S NEXT?
ROBERT GUERRERO IS PLAYING THE FAMILIAR WAITING GAME AFTER HIS CONVINCING VICTORY OVER TOUGH TURK SELCUK AYDIN.
By Thomas Gerbasi

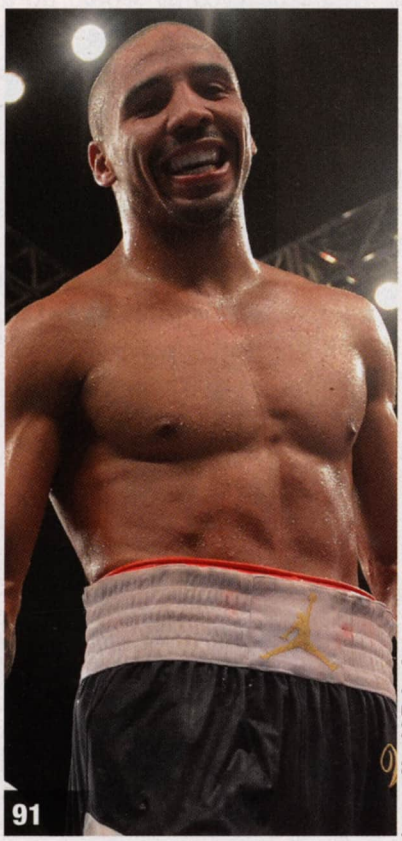
70 | WEIGHING OPTIONS
OLYMPIC SUPER HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION ANTHONY JOSHUA COULD HAVE A LUCRATIVE FUTURE BUT IS IN NO HURRY.
By Gavin Evans

76 | LABOR OF LOVE
ALEXANDRE CHOKO, AUTHOR OF THE FUTURE OF BOXING, TRAVELED THE WORLD TO PICK THE BRAINS OF THE SPORT'S GREATEST FIGURES.
By Norm Frauenheim

80 | LATE DRAMA
SERGIO MARTINEZ LEARNED AGAINST JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ JR. THAT SOMETIMES IT'S BETTER TO BE SMART THAN BRAVE.
By Ron Borges

86 | QUICK WORK
SAUL "CANELO" ALVAREZ DESTROYED JOSESITO LOPEZ AND THEN SET HIS SIGHTS ON BIGGER AND BETTER THINGS.
By Doug Fischer

91 | BREAKTHROUGH
THE ONE THING ANDRE WARD HAD NEVER GIVEN FANS WAS A SPECTACULAR KO. HE FINALLY DID SO AT CHAD DAWSON'S EXPENSE.
By Michael Rosenthal



DEPARTMENTS

4 | RINGSIDE

5 | OPENING SHOTS

10 | COME OUT WRITING

11 | READY TO GRUMBLE
By David Greisman

15 | ROLL WITH THE PUNCHES
Jabs and Straight Writes by Thomas Hauser

23 | BEST I'VE FACED: MARK "TOO SHARP" JOHNSON

25 | SIX PACK
By T.K. Stewart

27 | OUTSIDE THE ROPES
By Brian Harty

30 | RING CARD GIRL

34 | RING RATINGS PACKAGE

96 | RINGSIDE REPORTS

104 | FIGHT RESULTS

107 | WOMEN'S BOXING
By Ryan Songalia

110 | LOOKING AHEAD
LUCIAN BUTE RETURNS
By Don Stradley

112 | FROM THE ARCHIVE

114 | AT THE FIGHTS

COVER IMAGE: GETTY IMAGES

TRUST YOUR GUT

By **Michael Rosenthal**

I was wrong about the Sergio Martinez-Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. fight on Sept. 15 in Las Vegas, which is no revelation: I'm often wrong in my predictions.

I was certain that Martinez would make Chavez look like a fool, break him down and then brutally knock him out. I said so publicly. And I never would've expected the drama of the 12th round, when Junior almost pulled out the victory. Who would've?

I was right about one thing, though: Martinez DID make Chavez look foolish for 11-plus one-sided rounds. That was as predictable as just about any supposedly competitive fight in my two decades of covering boxing.

And I'll tell you why: The vast majority of the time, the fighter with more talent wins. And Martinez, even at 37, has more talent in one fist than Chavez has in that big body.

Let me ask: What was your first reaction when you heard that Chavez would be fighting Martinez? I would guess that most knowledgeable boxing fans probably thought, "Martinez is too much for Junior to handle."

Then you begin to hear things — Chavez is too big and too young, he has progressed, Martinez is in decline — and you start thinking, "Well, maybe they're right. Maybe Chavez IS too big for Martinez, maybe he is good enough now, maybe Martinez IS old."

And then you start to believe that the kid could win, even though your gut had it right to begin with. In other words, you over think something that isn't necessarily complicated.

I learned this lesson in 1995, when Oscar De La Hoya fought Rafael Ruelas for Ruelas' IBF lightweight title at Caesers Palace in Las Vegas.

De La Hoya was among the most-gifted fighters in the world at the time but he had begun to accumulate the inevitable distractions that plague superstars, enough to open the door for Ruelas. Or so I thought.

I knew Ruelas well. No one got more out of his natural ability than he did. He was a tough, determined kid who had proven again and again that he could overcome any adversity to win.

And I believed he would do it again against a vulnerable De La Hoya. How stupid I was. On the talent scale, De La Hoya and Ruelas were light years apart. That's all that mattered — not distractions or Ruelas' determination but God-given ability. I should've seen that.

Since then, when I'm forced to assess a matchup, I ask myself, "Who's the more talented guy?" And if one has a clear advantage in that department, I pick him to win the fight.

Is my system fool proof? Hell no. Chavez almost proved that in the final minute of the fight. And, yes, sometimes will and conditioning trumps talent.

Not often, though. Go with the more-talented guy. Trust your gut.

The RING

VOLUME 91, NO. 12 | DECEMBER 2012

FOUNDER
Nathaniel Fleischer
(1888-1972)

EDITOR
Michael Rosenthal

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Douglass Fischer

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
Brian Harty

CREATIVE DIRECTION
Stephen Chavez
Michael Fiore

ANYONE™ COLLECTIVE
weareanyone.com

ART DIRECTOR
Jonathan Rodrigues

CONTROLLER
Deborah L. Harrison

CIRCULATION DIRECTOR
Kenneth J. Gudaitis

ADVERTISING INQUIRIES
Robert Gasparri
213-233-2952
sepub@sepublications.com

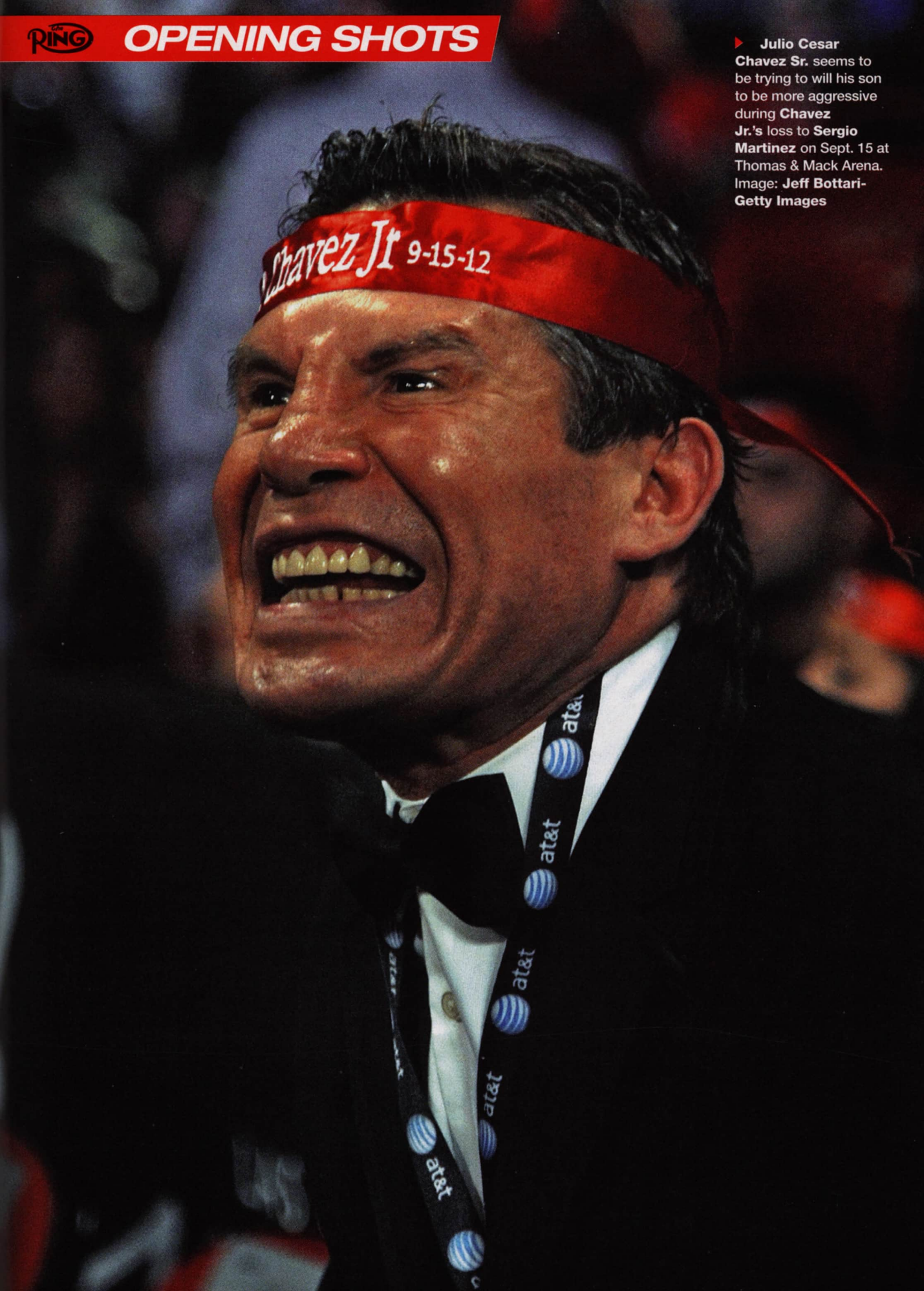
SUBSCRIPTION INQUIRIES
SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT PUBLICATIONS
P.O. BOX 433122
Palm Coast, FL 32164-3122
1-800-846-6438
thering@emailcustomerservice.com

BACK ISSUES
215-643-3087 OR ONLINE AT RINGTV.COM

DIGITAL EDITION INQUIRIES
support@imirus.com

SEND EDITORIAL COMMENTS TO:
comeoutwriting@sepublications.com
or P.O. BOX 251753,
Los Angeles CA, 90025

THE RING (ISSN: 0035-5410), Vol. 91, NO. 12 (December 2012), is published monthly by Sports and Entertainment Publications, LLC, 510 Township Line Rd., Suite 130, Blue bell, PA 19422. Periodicals postage paid at Blue Bell, PA 19422 and additional post offices. Postmasters: Send change of address notices to: THE RING, P.O. Box 433122, Palm Coast, FL 32164-3122. Single copy price $8.95 in U.S. and Canada (£4.95 in the UK). Subscription price $78.70 in the U.S., $127.10 in Canada and Mexico, $143.70 in remaining countries. Not responsible for the loss or non-return of unsolicited articles or photographs, which will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed envelope bearing the proper amount of postage. The entire contents of this magazine are copyright ©2012 Sports and Entertainment Publications, LLC. No part of this magazine may be reproduced without the written permission of the publisher. All rights reserved. Publisher is not responsible for the accuracy of the content of advertisements appearing in this magazine, nor the delivery or quality of merchandise or services offered. No endorsement of any such advertisement is intended or implied. Advertisers and agencies assume liability for claims arising from the content of their advertisements. FOR ADVERTISING INQUIRES AND RATES: (213) 233-2952. U.S. and Canadian distribution by Kable Distribution Services Inc., 14 Wall Street, Suite 4C, New York, NY 10022. International distribution by Worldwide Media Service Inc., 115 East 23rd St., New York, NY 10010, UK distribution by Comag Tavistock Rd., West Drayton, Middlesex UB77QE, England. **Printed in U.S.A.**



Julio Cesar Chavez Sr. seems to be trying to will his son to be more aggressive during **Chavez Jr.'s** loss to **Sergio Martinez** on Sept. 15 at Thomas & Mack Arena. Image: **Jeff Bottari-Getty Images**

Antonio DeMarco seemed to be as stunned as everyone else after he took out **John Molina** in only 44 seconds on the Andre Ward-Chad Dawson card Sept. 8 in Oakland, Calif. Image: **Naoki Fukuda**

Andre Ward (left) knocked out **Chad Dawson** in the most-spectacular performance of his career Sept. 8 in Oakland, Calif. Image: **Naoki Fukuda**

GOTTA HAVE A PLAN

What every fighter needs is a detailed fight plan. This is what I mean: On *24/7* Floyd Mayweather Jr. asked Victor Ortiz, "What's your plan to beat me?" Victor's response was "I don't really have a plan. I am going to put pressure on you and make it a bloody affair." Floyd went on to say there are five ways to beat Manny Pacquiao. This is why Mayweather is the boss man of all active fighters; he studies the tapes of his opponents and then implements several plans that will beat that fighter. When Floyd fought Diego Corrales, I was scared for Floyd. Corrales was knocking out everybody. When the bell rang for the first round, my heart was pounding, but soon Floyd put Corrales on the canvas five times and they had to stop it. Diego never knew what happened, God rest his soul. Ray Robinson said in addition to having a plan, early in the fight he would set traps and watch how the fighter escaped. When the fight would get into the later rounds, Ray would employ the same trap to a now-weary opponent and normally the fighter would use the same escape route he used earlier, and when he did, Ray would put him to sleep.

Barry Abbott
Takoma Park, Md.

UNLEASH WARD

After watching RING super middleweight champion Andre "S.O.G." Ward completely overwhelm RING light heavyweight champion "Bad" Chad Dawson, I was left stunned. Even though I picked Ward to win on points, no way did I expect Ward to demolish him that convincingly. Ward seems to be the total package while other fighters such as Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. and Adrien Broner are getting most of the attention. I would love to see Ward fight Sergio Martinez (who easily outboxed Chavez Jr.) or Gennady Golovkin at a catch weight. Golovkin is the real deal and dispatched Grzegorz Proska with no problem. After what Carl Froch did to Lucian Bute, maybe a rematch with Froch would produce a packed stadium. Also, Ward could fight the legendary Bernard Hopkins just to add a name on his already impressive resume. In any case, Andre Ward seems to be willing to face any challenge, and I don't see him losing anytime soon!

Stephen Donatelli
Verona, Pa.

PACMAN-MAYWEATHER

I'm writing in regard to the mega fight we all want but know we can't have, kinda like Catherine Zeta Jones. This whole idea of Pacman and Mayweather fighting has been marinating so long the spices went stale. I say we forget that bout altogether, and also the Sergio Martinez vs. Julio Chavez Jr. rematch talk. To me the most compelling fight to made right now is Martinez vs. Mayweather. The promotion could be sponsored by M&Ms. These two guys are fast and Martinez's size and power might be enough to make that a very interesting fight. If Cotto could make a decent scrap, I don't see why Money vs. Martinez wouldn't be a whole lot of fun. Also on this topic, I think Pacquiao is in decline, and Marquez has shown us one big thing: Manny isn't great with clever boxers. I don't much like Mayweather but I can admit he is one clever boxer whose technique is tighter then Marquez's, and he's bigger and faster.

Aaron Peterson
Calgary, Canada

MEAT MARKET

Heavyweight boxing is bologna being sold at prime rib prices. Prospects are steered clear of each other only to be auctioned off for slaughter-by-Klitschko. Seth Mitchell vs Jonathan Banks? Bryant Jennings vs. Chris Koval? In a sane world Mitchell and Jennings would fight each other next and do away with meaningless stay-busy opponents.

Artur Szpilka beats Jameel McCline and Magomed Abdusalamov beats Maurice Byarm, both fights within weeks of each other. The winners of those fights should then fight each other but that's not what happens. Abdusalamov goes on to a meaningless fight with Jameel McCline, while it's almost certain Szpilka will be spotted at the graveyard, shovel-in-hand, looking for his next opponent. Give the kid a USDA stamp. He's on the truck to the slaughterhouse.

Gabe McIntosh
San Martin, Calif.

WRITE TO THE RING!

COME OUT WRITING, THE RING
P.O. Box 251753
Los Angeles, CA 90025
comeoutwriting@sepublications.com

E-mailed letters will include a writer's e-mail address unless a city and state of origin is provided. Letters may be edited for reasons of space and clarity.

Sergio Martinez fought carefully against **Julio Cesar Chavez Jr.** for 11-plus rounds because he had respect for his younger foe, as should we all. Image: **Jeff Bottari-Getty Images**

MARTINEZ BEAT THE REAL DEAL

By: **David Greisman**

The best and worst thing that could happen to Sergio Martinez was having his middleweight championship reign flash before his eyes, and ours, at the hands of the less experienced brat he had labeled a fraud.

Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. is no longer just a paper titleholder who had been pampered by networks and a promoter looking to cash in on his name, and by a sanctioning body run by his godfather. He is no longer a sacrificial lamb whose enablers were keeping him from slaughter as if he were the one lucky Thanksgiving turkey to receive a presidential pardon.

He is now the less experienced, pampered, oversized and undertrained fraud that nearly knocked Martinez out.

Except the "fraud" part is no longer true. Chavez has proved in 2012 that he belongs in the discussion of the top fighters in the middleweight division, even if for 11 rounds Martinez was able to silence both him and his Mexican faithful in attendance. Martinez found success precisely because he didn't treat Chavez as a fraud, but rather respected the danger that he posed, out-working and out-boxing a kid whose advances in recent years have been both understated and underrated.

Martinez had promised a beating so bad that he'd sneered about hoping Chavez's corner, the referee and the doctor would protect him. Instead, it wound up being death by a thousand figurative cuts. There would be no grand demonstration

Saul "Canelo" Alvarez needs a worthy foe to match his undeniable star power. Image: **Josh Hedges-Getty Images**

of the knockout power Martinez had used to end four straight fights before the bell. Instead, the only man to hit the canvas was Martinez.

It happened because Martinez took the result for granted, because he was beating Chavez so easily for 11 rounds and believed he had truly proved who was the true champion and who was a mere challenger. Yet "tired" and "overconfident" are the wrong traits to have when in against a desperate opponent; Martinez pulled back with his hands down and nearly saw everything he'd said before the bout, and everything he'd done during it, taken away from him.

It was the best and worst thing that could happen to him. He survived the onslaught that was the final half of the final round and went on to win the decision. While his mistake almost cost him the fight, it will pay off for him later. Martinez earned a significant payday for facing Chavez. With the immediate clamor for a rematch, he very well could earn another.

Boxing is a business. It doesn't matter how poor you think your opponent is if he can make you richer.

* * *

Boxing is indeed a business, and that explains why Canelo Alvarez is the Sweet Science's version of a boy band: He's a young, attractive and popular multimillionaire based on the strength of his completely forgettable greatest hits.

Here is the rogues gallery Alvarez has bested over the past two years: Carlos Baldomir, Lovemore Ndou, Matthew Hatton, Ryan Rhodes, Alfonso Gomez, Kermit Cintron, Shane Mosley and Josesito Lopez. It's long past time for Alvarez to step it up, and he would have done that in September had Paul Williams not been in a motorcycle crash, had James Kirkland not decided to once again sabotage his own career, and had Victor Ortiz not fought like, well, Victor Ortiz.

But unlike how we'd once rated Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. as undeserving and unproven in a division full of capable and competent contenders and world titleholders, Alvarez fits in well at junior middleweight. At 22, but already seven years into

his pro career, he is getting perceivably better.

Chavez was indeed once a fraud who was being kept away from Sergio Martinez. That was the right move at the time for Top Rank and Chavez's team, until Chavez was seen as a more competent, competitive challenger. Alvarez, though, needs to be kept away from Floyd Mayweather Jr. right now, no matter how much money that match makes.

We can complain that Alvarez should no longer be moved so slowly. There's also a danger, however, in moving him forward too quickly. That's a bad idea right now that would only serve to leave the famed redhead covered in two different colors: black and blue.

Put Canelo in with Miguel Cotto or Alfredo Angulo. At least give him a win first over a true Top 10 junior middleweight before putting him in with the No. 1 fighter, pound-for-pound. Boxing is a business, but it's also about more than bank accounts. It's one thing to be rich. It's another to be respected.

* * *

Don't believe a single thing you hear from a fighter's training camp. Unless it's negative, that is.

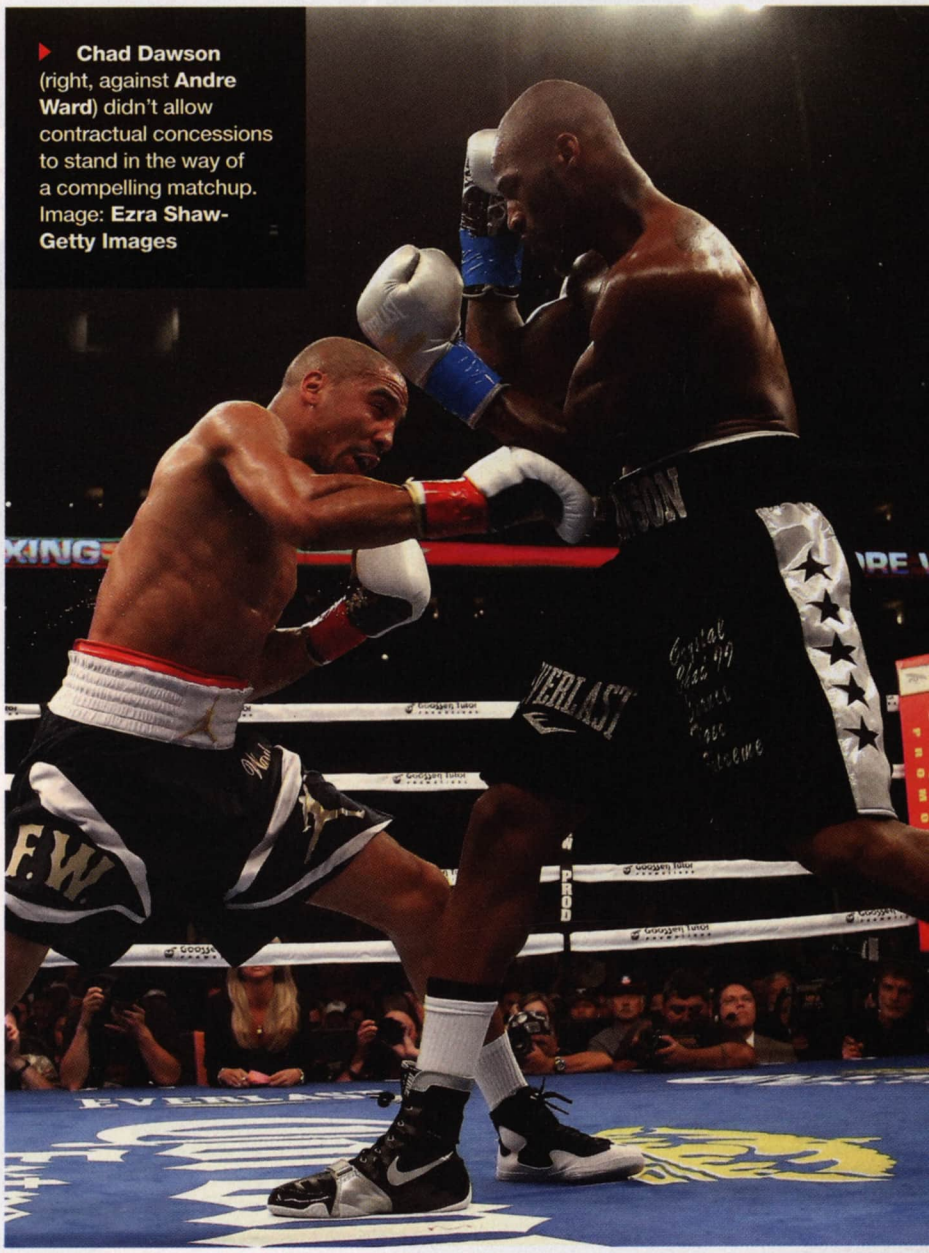
Every boxer is always in the best shape of his life. Everything in camp is always clicking on all cylinders. There are never any injuries, issues or problems to speak of. Well, there are — they're just not spoken of. After all, Oscar De La Hoya and Julio Cesar Chavez Sr. are only now admitting to drinking alcohol and other excesses prior to some of their past fights.

This is the battle between prefight posturing and post-fight excuse making. Before Chad Dawson fought Andre Ward, it was said that the light heavyweight was having no trouble dropping down seven pounds to the super middleweight limit. After Ward dominated Dawson, we heard that Dawson's body had rebelled on him in camp. This then began to lend more credence to the rumors that Dawson had been rocked badly in sparring.

It was bad enough that he was facing one of the best fighters in the world in Ward. It was made even worse when he willingly made the fight at 168 and in Ward's hometown.

Dawson only had himself and his team to blame. He was at a disadvantage long before the Ward fight was signed; he's long been paid well to be on television, but there was rarely much priority on making him a true star who could sell tickets. If he wanted to make money, then, he had to make contractual concessions. He fought on Ward's terms in the negotiations and on Ward's terms in the ring. Given Ward's talent, Dawson still might never have stood a chance anyway.

It probably wasn't the wisest choice. But for once it was good business that made a fight, rather than preventing one. As bad as excuses are after a bout is lost, the worst excuses are the ones that keep them from ever happening. ■



Chad Dawson (right, against **Andre Ward**) didn't allow contractual concessions to stand in the way of a compelling matchup. Image: **Ezra Shaw-Getty Images**

BlackBerry Torch.

4Go-getters

4Great fights

The first-ever 4G BlackBerry® Torch.™
Only from AT&T.

Rethink Possible®

FREE SHIPPING | 1.866.MOBILITY – ATT.COM/TORCH

4G speeds delivered by HSPA+ with enhanced backhaul. Available in limited areas. Availability increasing with ongoing backhaul deployment. Requires 4G device. Learn more at att.com/network.

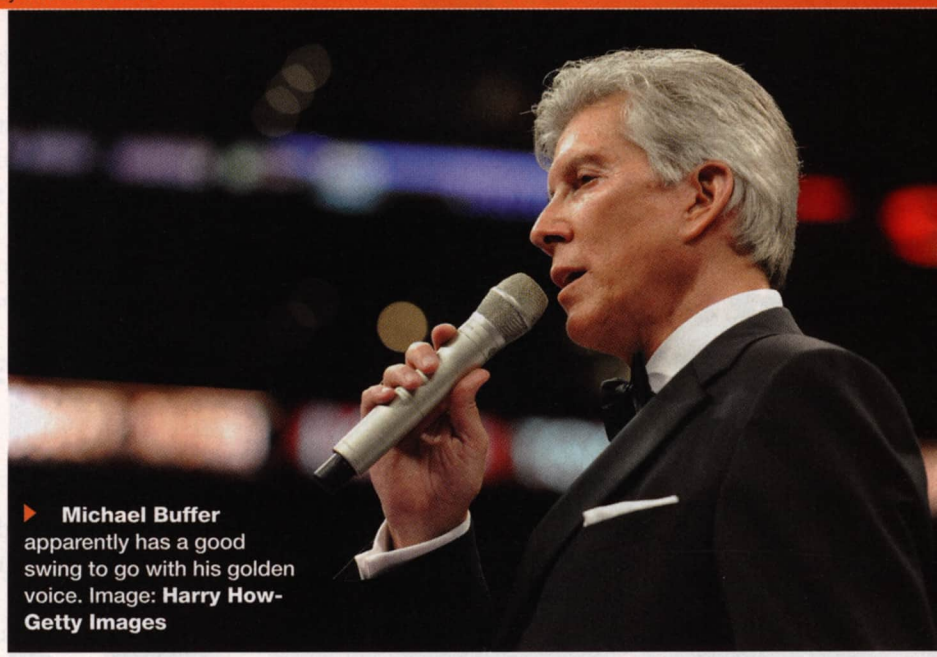
BlackBerry®, RIM®, Research In Motion®, and related trademarks, names, and logos are the property of Research In Motion Limited and are registered and/or used in the U.S. and countries around the world. Used under license from Research In Motion Limited. Screen images simulated. ©2011 AT&T Intellectual Property. Service provided by AT&T Mobility. All rights reserved. AT&T and the AT&T logo are trademarks of AT&T Intellectual Property. All other marks contained herein are the property of their respective owners.

JABS & STRAIGHT WRITES

By Thomas Hauser

BEST MOMENT IN SPORTS ... OUTSIDE OF BOXING

MICHAEL BUFFER

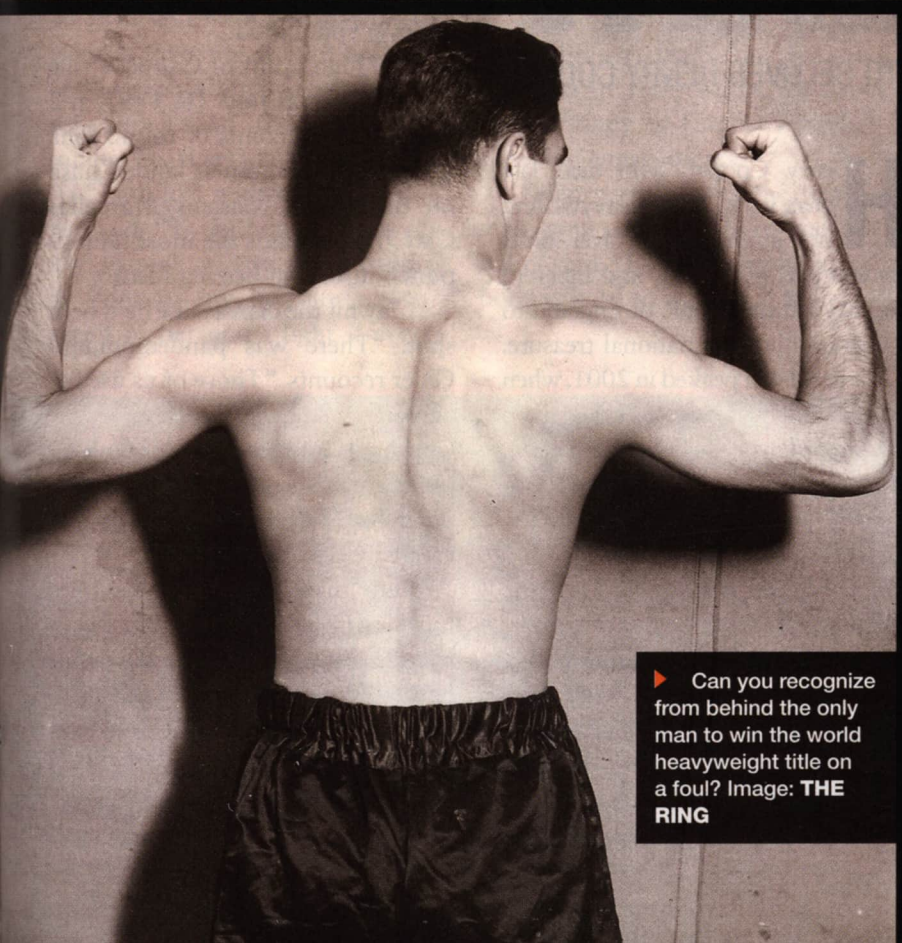


Michael Buffer apparently has a good swing to go with his golden voice. Image: Harry How-Getty Images

"I had a good arm when I was young. I could throw a football 50 yards, although not with accuracy. I had no basketball skills at all. I couldn't make a lay-up. And I never had good hand-eye coordination, which meant I wasn't much of a hitter.

"The Goossens used to put pick-up softball games together. They were good athletes. You had Greg Goossen, who had played Major League Baseball for the Mets. Dan was an athlete. There were brothers and sons and daughters and friends.

"I played in a few of their games. One time — this was back in the 1980s — I was at bat. The pitch came in and I really got ahold of it. I knew it was gone the moment I hit it. It went out over the fence in left field. Running around the bases, I did the whole act. Dancing backwards, showing off. It was a little moment, but it meant something to me. I didn't hit a lot of home runs in my life, and that's the last home run I ever hit."



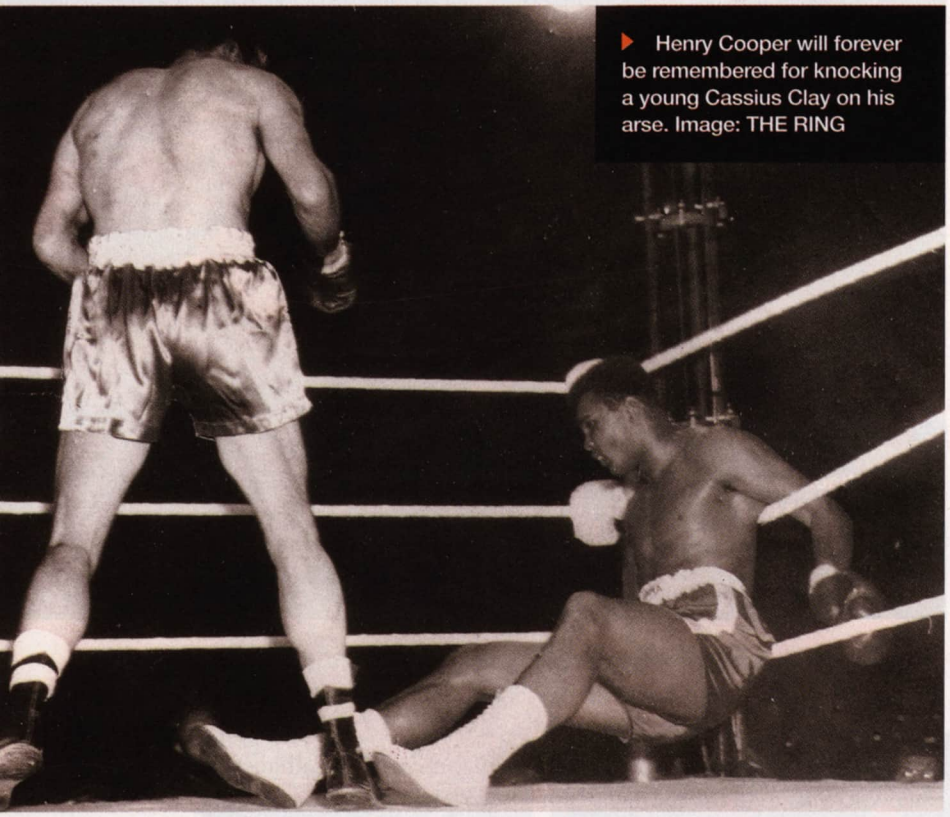
Can you recognize from behind the only man to win the world heavyweight title on a foul? Image: THE RING

QUICK QUIZ

1. Who is the only man to win the world heavyweight championship on a foul?

2. What is Jack Kracken's claim to fame?

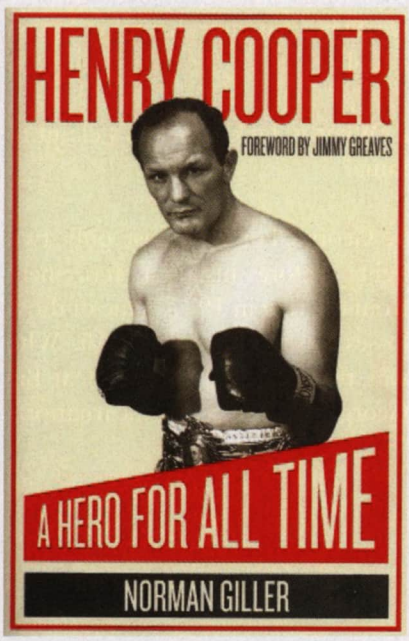
3. George Foreman lost only two fights before his first retirement from the ring in 1977. One of those losses was to Muhammad Ali. Who was the other fighter to defeat Big George in his first ring incarnation?



Henry Cooper will forever be remembered for knocking a young Cassius Clay on his arse. Image: THE RING

OUR 'ENRY

NEW BOOK DOESN'T DO JUSTICE TO BELOVED HENRY COOPER



Henry Cooper, who died last year, was a good heavyweight, not a great one. Over time, his courage, generosity, and inherent decency led the people of England to recognize him as a national treasure. Their good will peaked in 2001, when he was knighted by Queen Elizabeth in a ceremony at Buckingham Palace.

"I was busting with pride," Cooper said afterward. "Just wished my mum and dad and (manager) Jim Wicks had been there to share the moment. We were ordinary people. And here I was, kneeling before the Queen of England and being told, 'Arise, Sir Henry.'"

Cooper deserves a major biography. *Henry Cooper: A Hero for All Time* by Norman Giller (The Robson Press) falls short of that goal. There's some nice material in the book. But it's essentially an adoring, uncritical look at a complex man who merits more.

Cooper began fighting professionally in 1954. He won the British and Commonwealth heavyweight titles in 1959 and held them for a record 10 years. By the time he retired in 1971, his record was 40-14-1 (with 27 knockouts).

Cooper was a small heavyweight, generally weighing in around 188 pounds, and the lighter man in 47 of his 55 fights. His most potent weapon was a devastating left hook, known to British boxing fans as "'Enry's Hammer."

"To be honest, Cooper acknowledged, "I couldn't hurt a fly with my right hand."

His greatest liability was a tendency to cut, particularly around the eyes. "I often wonder what I could have achieved but for the cut eye curse," he said. "But it's no use crying over spilt blood."

The high point of Cooper's ring career came on June 18, 1963, at 2 minutes, 55 seconds of round four, when 'Enry's Hammer landed flush on the jaw of Cassius Marcellus Clay Jr. It remains the most famous punch in British boxing history.

Clay hit the canvas like he'd been shot. "There was pandemonium," Giller recounts. "Those of us used to being at Wembley (Stadium) for FA Cup finals and England football internationals were convinced we had never heard a roar like the one that greeted Clay's knockdown."

Only the bell kept Cooper from finishing his foe on the spot. Between rounds, Angelo Dundee revived his fighter with the help of illegal smelling salts. He also sought to extend the one-minute rest period by pulling at a pre-existing split along the seam of Clay's right glove.

"Now we enter the world of myth and mystery," Giller writes. "Many observers claimed that Dundee's chicanery earned Clay an extra twenty to thirty seconds of recovery time. Much as I would like to perpetuate the legend, I have been in the BBC archives de-

CLAY HIT THE CANVAS LIKE HE'D BEEN SHOT. 'THERE WAS PANDEMONIUM.'

– NORMAN GILLER

partment and watched the unedited version of the fight in real time. The interval between the fourth and fifth rounds actually lasted sixty-six seconds, which means that the Dundee gamesmanship gained just an extra six seconds."

Clay stopped Cooper on cuts in the next round. "At least we shut him up for a while," Cooper said afterward.

There are some poignant passages in Giller's book that detail Henry's love match with his wife of 48 years, Albina Genepri Cooper. Albina died in 2008 from a sudden heart attack at age 71.

"I am lost without her," Cooper said. "To be honest, I am really struggling. I've got a candle in front of my favorite photograph of her and I light it every night in her memory. I take her ashes in an urn with me if I am staying somewhere overnight. I know that sounds morbid, but it just sort of keeps me in touch. I don't know how I'm going to manage without her. Life is just not the same anymore. Always thought I'd go first. I'm in shock. Just can't take it in."

Here I should add a note regarding my own personal experience with Henry Cooper. I was fortunate to spend time with him on three occasions, the last of them in December 2001. Sir Henry had been knighted by then, and we talked over tea and crumpets for three hours. As always, he was warm, open, and charming.

I remember the day well. That remembrance leads me to the thoughts of Terry Baker, who arranged many of Cooper's public speaking engagements.

"Henry really was the nicest man you could wish to meet," Baker said. "How he ever hit anybody is hard to imagine." ■

QUIZ ANSWERS: **1.** Max Schmeling. Gene Tunney retired in 1928, leaving the title vacant. Schmeling then fought Jack Sharkey for the championship and was awarded the crown when Sharkey was disqualified for a low blow in the fourth round. **2.** On July 4, 1934, Joe Louis made his pro debut against Kracken and knocked him out in the first round. According to Boxrec.com, "Shortly after the start of the fight, [Louis] sent Kracken down for a count of nine with a left hook to the jaw. When Kracken gained his feet, Louis knocked him through the ropes and into the lap of Joe Triner, chairman of the Illinois Athletic Commission. Kracken crawled back into the ring at the count of 14, but Referee Dave Miller stopped the bout." It was Kracken's last fight. He finished his career with a 27-8 record. **3.** Jimmy Young defeated Foreman on a 12-round decision on March 17, 1977.

Thomas Hauser can be reached by email at thauser@rcn.com. His most recent book — *And the New …: An Inside Look at Another Year in Boxing* was published by the University of Arkansas Press.

FIGHTERS' FAVORITES

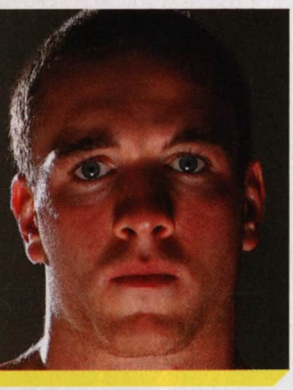
WHAT BOXERS ARE INTO OUTSIDE THE SPORT

NONITO DONAIRE

MUSIC: I like all kinds of music as long as it has a good story or has inspirational lyrics. Artists like Eminem and Tupac.
CAR: I love my NSX. My NSX is tight. I like Ferraris, but my personality is not too grand, and the NSX fits just that. It's sporty and luxurious, but at the same time it's an Acura.
FAVORITE FOOD: A lot! Ribs. Steak. But of course you have your Filipino dishes, like lechon which is the whole roatsted pig.
TATTOOS: No.
ATHLETE (OUTSIDE BOXING): There are a lot! There are so many sports I love and the athletes are just insane.
MOVIE: *300*, *Gladiator*, *Braveheart*, *Avengers*.
VIDEO GAME: *Starcraft*, *Guild Wars*, *Counter-Strike*. *Strategy*, *RPG*, shooting and sports games, too.

BRANDON RIOS

MUSIC: Don't really have one. I like all music.
CAR: Favorite is Lamborghini.
FAVORITE FOOD: Pizza.
TATTOOS: Yes, I have a couple. I have my son's name, an eagle, my name and stars on my arms, and the Virgin Mary on my back.
ATHLETE (OUTSIDE BOXING): I don't have a favorite one because there are different athletes I admire for their different talents.
MOVIE: *White Chicks*.
VIDEO GAME: I don't have one.



MIKE LEE

MUSIC: Drake.
CAR: Audi.
FOOD: Italian food, pasta, Subway.
TATTOOS: No tattoos.
ATHLETE (OUTSIDE BOXING): Michael Jordan.
MOVIE: *Good Will Hunting*.
VIDEO GAME: *Halo*.

TOSHIAKI NISHIOKA

MUSIC: U2, Us3
CAR: Lamborghini Countach
FOOD: Japanese-Korean style, cook-at-the-table barbecue
TATOO(S): None.
MOVIE: *Rocky*.
ATHLETE: Muhammad Ali
VIDEO GAME: *Tetris*

Images: Getty Images

GOOD, BAD, WORSE

THE BEST AND WORST IN BOXING FROM THE PAST MONTH

By: **Michael Rosenthal**

GOOD

No one rivals Floyd Mayweather Jr. and Manny Pacquiao in terms of their ability to attract viewers for their fights. But Sept. 15 provided hope for the future. The fight between Sergio Martinez and Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. generated a surprising 450,000 pay-per-view buys, which translates to about $25 million. That's big business. The Saul "Canelo" Alvarez-Josesito Lopez fight — on the same night and across town from Martinez-Chavez — had a television audience of more than 1 million. Again, a big number. And, in Las Vegas, a combined 29,799 filled the arenas that night. The point? The success of Sept. 15 proved that a compelling matchup and fighters still developing star power can generate considerable interest even if no one named Mayweather or Pacquiao is involved. Imagine what the numbers would've been without competing cards.

BAD

Ricky Hatton has announced that he is returning to boxing. The four-time titleholder is only 33, an age when many boxers remain active. And he probably could rely on toughness and residual talent to beat most opponents. The problem might be that he's damaged goods. He has abused his body with alcohol and other substances, which takes a toll. Also, the brutal manner in which he was stopped by Manny Pacquiao in his last fight — more than three years ago — can change a fighter forever. Hatton will face Vyacheslav Senchenko in his comeback fight Nov. 24 in his hometown of Manchester, England. We'll probably get an idea then as to how much Hatton has left. Let's hope that Hatton also makes that determination and then makes a wise decision as to how to proceed from there.

WORSE

The death of Corrie Sanders at a birthday party on Sept. 23 in South Africa was senseless and heartbreaking — a strapping 46-year-old man, protecting his daughter from gun-firing robbers, shot to death. For those in the boxing business, it was a kick to the gut. And fans undoubtedly felt the same way. Sanders gained instant fame when he knocked out Wladimir Klitschko in the second round to win the WBO heavyweight title in 2003. It wasn't luck. Sanders (42-4, 31 knockouts) was remarkably quick handed and athletic for a man of his size — 6-foot-4 — and, obviously, he could punch. Sanders wasn't a great fighter but he was a very good one. And his last act — protecting a loved one — was a noble way to die. I'll remember him for one fantastic victory and his heroism.

10 A MONTHLY BOXING LIST

THIS MONTH: Classic boxing quotes:

RANDALL "TEX" COBB: "If you screw things up in tennis, it's 15-love. If you screw up in boxing, it's your ass."

JACK DEMPSEY: "A champion is someone who gets up when he can't."

JACK HANDY: "To me, boxing is like a ballet — except there's no music, no choreography and the dancers hit each other."

ALAN MINTER: "Sure there have been injuries and deaths in boxing – but none of them serious."

MUHAMMAD ALI: "I'll beat him so bad he'll need a shoehorn to put his hat on."

BUDD SCHULBERG: "As much as I love boxing, I hate it. And as much as I hate it, I love it."

GEORGE FOREMAN: "Boxing is like jazz. The better it is, the less people appreciate it."

JOE FRAZIER: "Boxing is the only sport you can get your brain shook, your money took and your name in the undertaker book."

SUGAR RAY LEONARD: "Like a lot of things in life, when you put the gloves on, it's better to give than to receive."

WILLIE PASTRANO, RESPONDING TO THE FIGHT DOCTOR DURING HIS FIGHT AGAINST JOSE TORRES: "You're damn right I know where I am! I'm in Madison Square Garden getting the sh-t kicked out of me!"

RING POLL

A MONTHLY POLL OF OUR RINGTV.COM READERS.

Is interest in the elusive superfight between Manny Pacquiao and Floyd Mayweather Jr. waning to some degree? Our monthly poll seems to suggest it is. Only 53.9 percent of those who took part say they're "very excited" about the matchup after so many years of anticipation. Here's the poll question and your responses: If Manny Pacquiao beats Juan Manuel Marquez on Dec. 8 and then goes on to fight Floyd Mayweather Jr. in 2013, how excited will you be about the long-awaited showdown?

THE PERCENTAGES:

Very Excited	**53.9**
Somewhat Excited	**26.3**
Not excited at all	**19.8**

NOTE: 6,694 readers voted in the poll.

Saul "Canelo" Alvarez (holding belt) and **Oscar De La Hoya** gave referee **Joe Cortez** a touching tribute after Alvarez's victory over **Josesito Lopez**, Cortez's last fight as a ref. Said Cortez: "I was going to raise Canelo's hand up for a photo when Oscar said, 'You know what? You're retiring. You're the champion. You deserve the belt.' So Canelo put it around my waist and raised my hand. When have you ever seen a champ and a promoter raise the hand of a referee? I was on cloud nine. After 35 years, to have someone do that was really something." Image: **Nick Laham-Golden Boy**

HOLIDAY READING: 2012

By: **Thomas Hauser**

Each year during the holiday season, I publish a "Top 40" list of what I consider to be the best books on boxing. That list, updated to accommodate recently published titles, is posted on RingTV.com. Here's the link: http://goo.gl/oQHml. Some of these books are now out of print. But with the proliferation of online services like Abebooks.com and Amazon.com, all of them can be found. Meanwhile, my "Pick Six" collection is:

BEYOND GLORY by David Margolick (Alfred A. Knopf) – Joe Louis and his two fights against Max Schmeling in historical perspective.

JOHN L. SULLIVAN AND HIS AMERICA by Michael Isenberg (University of Illinois Press) – An in-depth look at America's first sports superstar.

THE SWEET SCIENCE by A. J. Liebling (Penguin) – Eighteen articles from the 1950s and early '60s by the legendary dean of boxing writers.

ROCKY MARCIANO by Russell Sullivan (University of Illinois Press) – An honest penetrating exploration of Marciano as a person and as a fighter.

UNFORGIVABLE BLACKNESS: THE RISE AND FALL OF JACK JOHNSON by Geoffrey C. Ward (Alfred A. Knopf) – The standard against which future Johnson biographies will be judged.

SWEET THUNDER: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF SUGAR RAY ROBINSON by Wil Haygood (Alfred A. Knopf) – The first biography to fully explain Robinson's legacy in the ring and his importance out of it.

Thomas Hauser can be reached by email at **thauser@rcn.com.** His most recent book — *And the New ...: An Inside Look at Another Year in Boxing* was published by the University of Arkansas Press.

A SPECIAL HONOR

MUHAMMAD ALI BECOMES FIRST ATHLETE TO RECEIVE LIBERTY MEDAL

By **Joseph Santoliquito**

PHILADELPHIA – He sat there hunched over in a wheel chair, his hands trembling and his eyes cloaked behind dark sunglasses. But on Sept. 13, thousands once again chanted his name: "Ali! Ali! Ali! Ali!"

Muhammad Ali became the first athlete to be awarded the prestigious Liberty Medal for his role in advancing civil rights and humanitarian causes, receiving the honor before a few thousand on the lawn of the National Constitution Center.

Previous Liberty Medal recipients include six Nobel Peace Prize winners — including former South African President Nelson Mandela, Polish labor leader Lech Wałesa and former U.S. President Jimmy Carter — as well as former Secretary of State Colin Powell and rock singer and human rights activist Bono.

Olympic gold medalist Claressa Shields handed the award to Ali's daughter, Laila, who leaned over and gently placed the medal around her father's neck. Then Laila hugged and kissed her father on the forehead, whispering something into his ear. You could almost see a smile crease the stolid face of "The Greatest."

A five-minute video chronicling the former champion's career was shown. Ali seemed to labor to lift his head and peek up at the images of his magnificent past. After his daughter placed the medal on him, he looked down and touched it.

"My father loves people and people love my father, and I learned that at a very young age, as people would always come up to him wherever we went," Laila Ali said. "My father has always lived his life to make this world better for others."

Ali, 70 and ravaged by Parkinson's Disease, was recognized for his stance against the Vietnam War and his refusal to serve based on his religious convictions. Because of that stance, Ali was stripped in 1967 of the heavyweight championship he earned by defeating Sonny Liston on February 25, 1964, in Miami.

Laila Ali, the daughter of **Muhammad Ali**, slips the prestigious Liberty Medal around The Greatest's neck. Image: **Jeff Julian**

Ali was convicted of draft evasion but was later exonerated by the U.S. Supreme Court. He went on to regain the heavyweight championship against George Foreman in 1974 and became the first three-time heavyweight champion when he won a rematch against Leon Spinks in 1978.

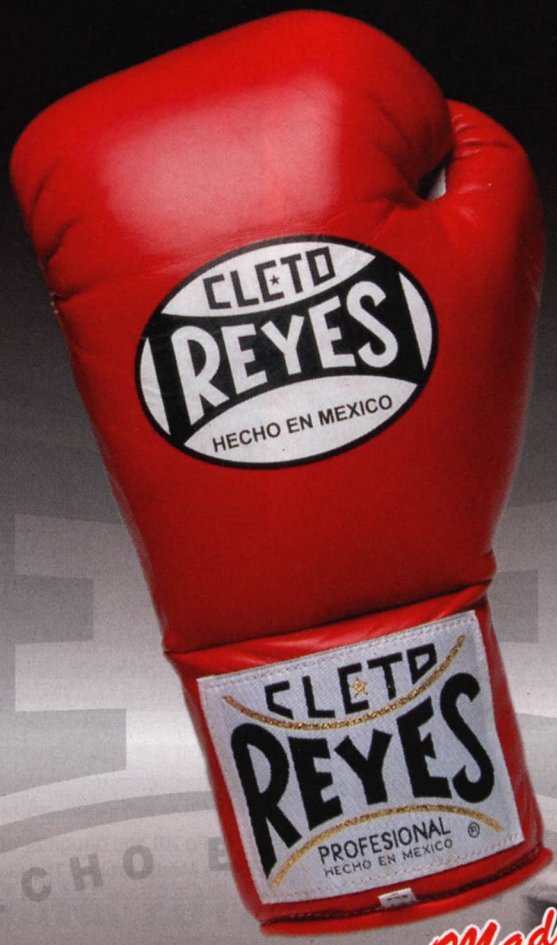
A number of sports celebrities were on hand to honor Ali, though perhaps the most stirring speech came from Joe Louis Barrow II, the son of Joe Louis. Barrow fought back tears as he told Ali, "Knowing you since I was a little boy has given me a ringside seat to history. But it's your character outside the ring that speaks to the hope of the least and lost among us."

Lonnie Ali, Ali's wife, closed the presentation by telling the gathering, "Muhammad has always believed that he lives within the great circle of humanity. He is, indeed, of the people. His care, his concerns, his well wishes, are all focused on the people within that great circle — we, the people."

JUST THE BEST!

Come to our stores in CALIFORNIA!

NOW OPEN IN SAN DIEGO!



Hand Made

Los Guantes de los Campeones

Shop on line

www.cletoreyes.com

CLETO REYES STORE:

6904 Miramar Road Suite #104, San Diego, CA 92121

(619) 863 4557

1808 N National St, Anaheim, CA 92801

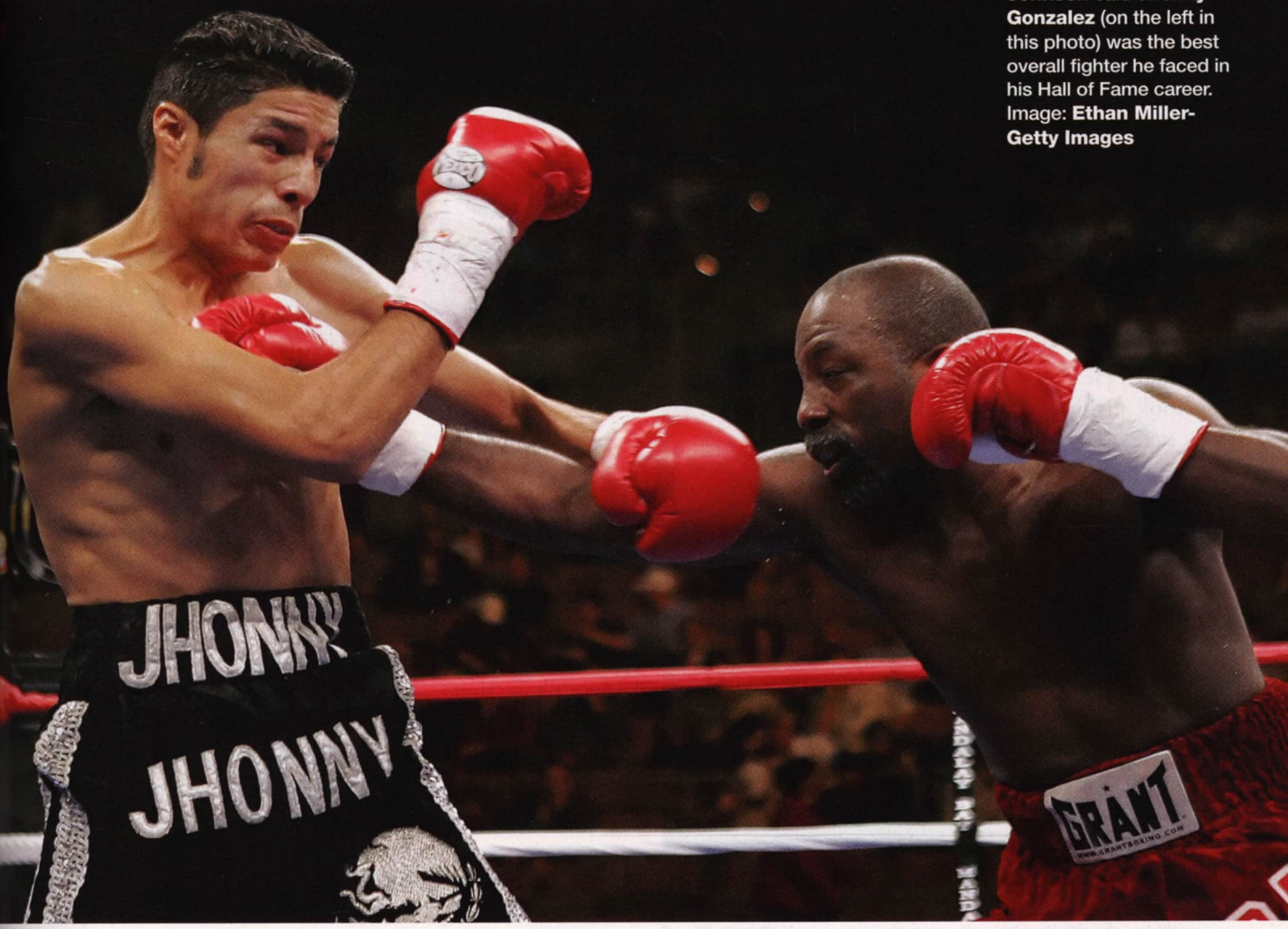
ventas@cletoreyes.com | cletoreyesmex | Facebook/cletoreyesusa | cletoreyesusa

HEADQUARTERS OFFICE AND SHOWROOM IN MEXICO CITY

Wagner No. 289 Col. Vallejo 07870 México, D.F. Tel. (52 55) 5517 8301

Official Dealer CLETO REYES HECHO EN MEXICO USA - CANADA 2012

LOOK FOR OUR AUTHORIZED DEALERS...



Mark "Too Sharp" Johnson said Jhonny Gonzalez (on the left in this photo) was the best overall fighter he faced in his Hall of Fame career. Image: Ethan Miller-Getty Images

MARK 'TOO SHARP' JOHNSON

By Lem Satterfield

Hall of Famer Mark "Too Sharp" Johnson became the first African-American to win a flyweight title and won two belts as a junior bantamweight. He also was considered one of the best fighters, pound for pound, during his prime.

Johnson had it all. He was a slick, southpaw boxer-puncher with a solid chin, dazzling footwork and the ability to deliver hard blows from any angle whether coming forward or moving in reverse.

That might be why the top 108- to 115-pounders of his era — fighters such as Johnny Tapia, Danny Romero and Michael Carbajal — avoided him, or so many observers believe.

Johnson won the vacant IBF flyweight title with a first-round knockout of Francisco Tejedor in May of 1996, making him the first black 112-pound champion. He successfully defended the title seven times, after which he moved up to 115 pounds.

He won the vacant IBF junior bantamweight title by outpointing Ratanachai Sor Vorapin in the first-ever fight at Washington, D.C.'s, MCI Center, which is now the Verizon Center. He successfully defended once before vacating the title.

Johnson suffered consecutive losses to a young Rafael Marquez in 2001-02 but rebounded in 2003 to outpoint Fernando Montiel and win the WBO version of the 115-pound title. He lost the belt by an eighth-round knockout to Ivan Hernandez in 2004 and concluded his career with an eighth-round KO loss to Jhonny Gonzalez in 2006.

Johnson (44-5, 28 knockouts) retired in February of 2006. At 40, he became the youngest boxer to

be inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame as well as the first out of Washington, D.C., to receive the honor.

Johnson, born with the gift of gab, was recently hired by Showtime as an analyst. He spoke to THE RING regarding the best fighters he faced over the course of his career.

Mark Johnson was very emotional during his induction into the International Hall of Fame this year. Image: **Jeff Julian**

BEST OVERALL: JHONNY GONZALEZ

I would say that it's Jhonny Gonzalez. He's a guy that when you look at him on tape or when you watch him in the ring, it doesn't look like anything special. Even though it was the last fight of my career, it's also the way that he carries himself, with his defense and his punching power. Then you add in the fact that he was trained by Nacho Beristain, who is a Hall of Fame trainer.

BEST JAB: ARTHUR JOHNSON

I would say that the man with the best jab would have to be Arthur Johnson. I say that even though I knocked him out in the first round, and I never really gave him the opportunity to use it. I really had to out-speed him and beat him with my jab, which meant being first and getting close. Then, once he would jab, I countered over the top and caught him. I set the stage early in the first five seconds of the round. I had to out-jab the jabber and I got him with a right hook over the top of his jab.

BEST DEFENSE: FERNANDO MONTIEL

Montiel was tough. Early on in the fight, I was the aggressor and I was able to push forward. But if you watch the fight, the punch numbers were down. He was difficult to hit and made it tough to jump on him.

BEST BOXER: MONTIEL

I still have to go with Montiel. I think that he was the best boxer out of them all. It went 12 rounds, and I was fighting a lot of Mexicans who, up until then, really didn't have that many comparable boxing skills. But Montiel was a really good, solid boxer. Fernando Montiel, the Sugar Ray Leonard of Mexicans.

BEST PUNCHER: RAFAEL MARQUEZ

I fought a lot of guys who were good punchers, but, of course, the guy that I would have to rate No. 1 is Marquez just because in the second fight, he was able to stop me.

BEST CHIN: ALBERTO JIMENEZ

The Jimenez fight came at a time early in my career when I was knocking everybody out, but with him, it went to a split decision. Before that fight, I had only gone as far as about six rounds. I hit him with everything, including the kitchen sink. The only thing that I didn't hit him with was the fire hydrant outside.

FASTEST HANDS AND FEET: MONTIEL

That would have to be Montiel again. Montiel was faster than any of them. Montiel was a much better fighter then than he showed against Nonito Donaire. I never got behind the eight-ball, and the fight did get close, but I was already ahead. But Montiel was the fastest fighter that I fought. That fight just gave me fits.

SMARTEST: GONZALEZ

I say that it was Gonzalez, but not because of what he did in the ring, but because he chose to fight me at the right time in my career and was able to stop me. Plus, with Nacho Beristain, you could actually say that he was the smartest person that I fought. He just didn't get into the ring.

STRONGEST: ANCEE GEDEON

Very, very early in my career, I fought a guy who was the physically strongest in Ancee Gedeon. It went 10 rounds in D.C., and it was one of those tune-up fights. But this guy was so much bigger and so much stronger than I had anticipated, that every punch I hit him with, he just walked right through it. In the later rounds, I had to box the guy because he just would not go anywhere. ■

THE ACTIVE LIFE

VICTOR ORTIZ INCORPORATES UNUSUAL ACTIVITIES INTO HIS TRAINING REGIMEN

By **T.K. Stewart**

In the long history of the sport, boxers have incorporated many different types of training routines into their regimens in order to gain an extra edge. Earnie Shavers claimed his thudding punching power came from his time spent chopping wood. Muhammad Ali performed roadwork in army boots and walked around in heavy shoes because he believed it made him lighter on his feet.

Victor Ortiz takes an unusual approach in terms of his physical activity. He is an active fighter and former world titleholder who surfs, rides a road bicycle and participates in triathlons and marathons.

"I like to compete in triathlons as a fun thing to do, you know?" Ortiz said. "I like to do them just to have fun and keep my weight down in between fights. Some guys have a tendency to gain weight in between fights, and I try not to do that. All of these extra types of things are a great way to take care of the body and keep in shape."

While Bo Jackson and the decade of the '90s ushered in the era of cross-training for athletes, few in boxing answered the call. Outside of Evander Holyfield, a tireless weight-lifter who also incorporated some ballet to improve his balance, most fighters adhered to the tried and true methods of roadwork, rope skipping, pounding the bags, sparring and calisthenics.

Ortiz could be the first of a new breed of prizefighter. The days of world class boxers fighting more than two or three times per year is a thing of the past. As a result, the true professionals who like to keep their bodies finely tuned may need to look elsewhere for their physical fitness fix.

Victor Ortiz engages in a number of activities in addition to his boxing training, including distance running. Image: **SHOWTIME / ALL ACCESS**

After Ortiz' February rematch versus Andre Berto was canceled, he decided not to waste the weeks spent in training camp so he ran in the Los Angeles Marathon this past March, as well as the Hollywood half marathon in April, the latter being his fourth long-distance race.

"I did it in 3 hours and 21 minutes, but it wasn't easy," he said of his 26.2-mile adventure through the streets of L.A. Ortiz finished 527th in a field of almost 19,000 runners. "In some ways it couldn't be more different than boxing because there's nobody punching you in the face or in the body. But on the other hand, doing this sort of thing really relates to boxing. It's great conditioning for the legs and obviously the lungs, and it builds your endurance."

Mental strength is crucial in boxing, perhaps more so than any other sport. It also plays a role in distance running. Ortiz was able to overcome a mental hurdle in the marathon as a result of advice from an unlikely source.

Victor Ortiz (above) has run a sub-3:30 marathon. He also is at home in the surf culture of Southern California. Images: **SHOWTIME / ALL ACCESS**

"I've run other marathons before, but for some reason this one was tougher. I stopped up entirely because of cramps, and I hit a wall," he said. "I was inspired because there was this little kid, a fan watching the race, and he looks at me and he says: 'Victor Ortiz, are you OK?' because I had stopped running. I said yeah, I'm OK, I'm just cramping. He said 'Victor Ortiz, you're a world champion and don't you forget that.' I looked at him and I said you know what, 'You're right, I am a world champ.' I just broke out of that mentality and I finished the last two miles in about 9:40."

Ortiz is sidelined with the remnants of a broken jaw suffered during his loss to Josesito Lopez in June. As per doctor's orders, he cannot even hit the heavy bag because it might jar loose the four screws and two plates that are holding his jaw together.

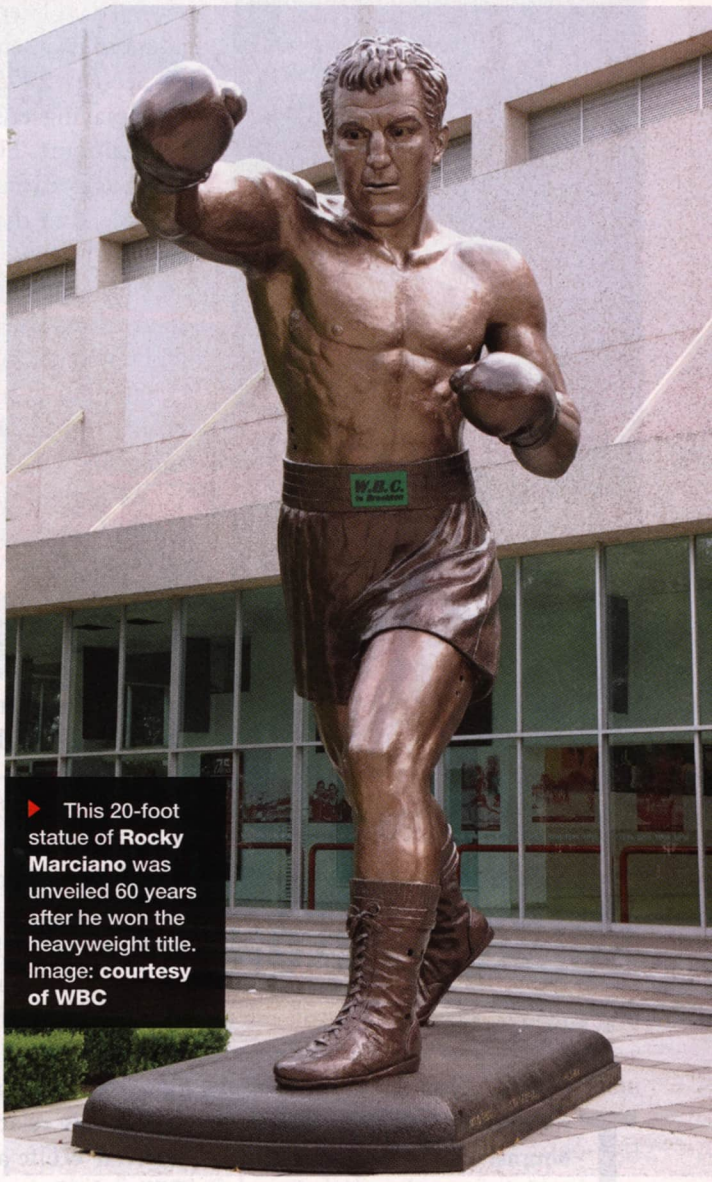
"I'm not really focused on boxing right now because obviously I can't with the jaw," he said. "I've been out for a couple of jogs, which was probably not the smartest thing to do, but not working out is driving me crazy." ■

ON A PEDESTAL

By **Brian Harty**

Artists love boxers. For figurative painters and sculptors, they're ready-made models. In movies they work equally well as heroes (*Rocky*) and anti-heroes (*Raging Bull*). And writers often use them figuratively in a different sense, as emblems of more universal human struggles.

Not all audiences love boxers, but most seem to appreciate the *idea* of them; even people not comfortable with the sport find fascination in the representations of fighters and their stories. Thus, they continue to be popular subjects. For the faithful, of course, works that depict boxers, whether in galleries or theaters or public squares, are always welcome, and recently several such tributes were announced.



This 20-foot statue of **Rocky Marciano** was unveiled 60 years after he won the heavyweight title. Image: **courtesy of WBC**

ROCKY MARCIANO

Donated by the WBC on its 50th anniversary, a 20-foot statue of "The Brockton Blockbuster" was driven under police escort from Mexico to its destination in Massachusetts. The colossus is based on the KO punch that abstracted the face of Jersey Joe Walcott when Marciano won the heavyweight title in 1952. He defended it six times (only one of those seven fights went the distance and three were named Fight of Year by THE RING) before retiring with a rare perfect record in 1956.

JOE FRAZIER

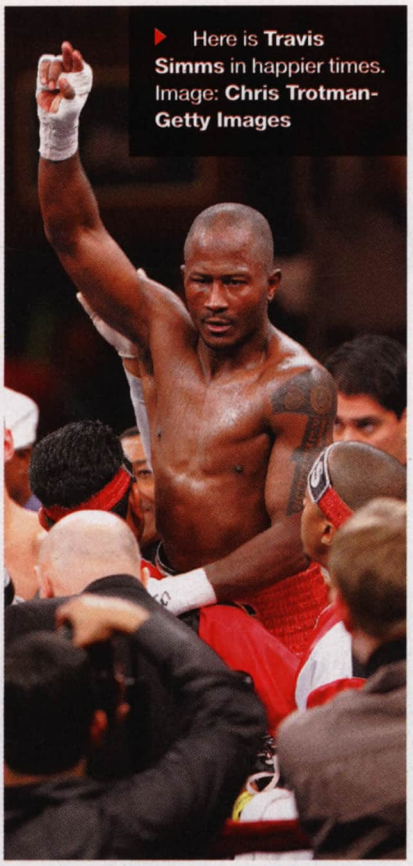
Smokin' Joe actually won "The Fight of the Century" against Muhammad Ali in 1971, but the only boxer on prominent display in Philadelphia is a fictional one. Perhaps spurred by Rev. Jesse Jackson's comments at Frazier's funeral in November, the boxer's hometown finally launched a plan to remedy the situation. Tax-deductible donations to help the bronze monument become a reality can be made at FrazierStatue.com.

WILLIE PEP

Unlike the previous two boxers, Willie Pep is one of those guys usually confined to the comparisons of aficionados while others nearby wonder, "Who?" James Madio, a Bronx-native actor/producer with a list of credits stretching back to *Hook* in 1991, will attempt to change that with a movie called *Pep*. It will be set in 1965 as the title character, already sitting on a remarkable record of 220-10-1, decides to break a six-year hiatus and make a comeback at age 42.

JOHNNY TAPIA

Every ensemble cast needs its head-case. If this were the *A-Team*, Tapia would be Murdock, though anyone who met the five-time titleholder could easily see much more to him than just his *vida loca*. His life seemed destined to be a movie, though certainly not one for the kids, and Tapia himself was involved in the project until his death from heart failure in May. He will be played by Shiloh Fernandez, who will soon appear in a remake of *The Evil Dead*, a blood-soaked tale of demon possession originally banned in several countries for violence. It should make a nice warm-up for Tapia's story. ■



Here is **Travis Simms** in happier times. Image: **Chris Trotman-Getty Images**

WHOLE LOTTA SUING GOIN' ON

By **Brian Harty**

Tremendous news for **Travis Simms**: It was announced in mid-August that the former junior middleweight titleholder and former Norwalk city councilman would be inducted into the Connecticut Boxing Hall of Fame to honor his 11-year pro career.

A few days later, not-so-tremendous news: Simms was Tasered and arrested along with others after getting into a confrontation with police officers who were attempting to break up a memorial gathering gone bad. Simms got the law-darts removed from his back at a nearby hospital and posted $1,000 bail, but the un-tremendous trend continued several days later when Norwalk announced its intention to sue Simms.

See, in 2005, Simms hurt his foot playing basketball on a city-owned court. He claimed that the injury was a result of shoddy maintenance, and that it prevented him from defending his WBA title and cost him substantial income, so he sued Norwalk in 2007 (interestingly, his title during that time was "champion-in-recess" since he had been stripped of the real belt after suing the WBA).

As part of a $5,000 settlement, Simms was to use half of the money to fund athletic programs for Norwalk youth, but the city said he won't hand over the cash. Simms said he wants to use it for a boxing program and that "it's just a slow process." ...

Alfred Angulo's "slow process" finally came to an end in August as he left the El Centro Immigration Detention center with seven months' worth of hair on his head. He mentioned a rematch with **James Kirkland** as a fight he'd like to make soon, but Kirkland's own situation was precarious following a salvo of lawsuits seeking to sever his promotional and managerial contracts, as well as his relationship with trainers **Ann Wolfe** and **Donald "Pops" Billingsly**. In a subplot from deep in the rabbit hole, Kirkland insinuated to ThaBoxingVoice.com that his own team had drugged him before his controversial DQ win over **Carlos Molina**, saying he felt "high as a kite" after taking two "black pills" given to him. ...

Pacquiao-Mayweather Syndrome (PMS), characterized by irritability and an incessant rolling of the eyes, flared once again upon the news that the two non-combatants had settled a federal defamation suit filed by **Manny Pacquiao** in 2009 involving insinuations of performance-enhancing drug use. The details remained secret, but **Floyd Mayweather Jr.** and his father, **Floyd Sr.**, released a statement saying they never intended to suggest that Pacquiao had cheated. ...

Juan Manuel Marquez, now on track to face Pacquiao for a fourth time in December, published a book that details his rise as a boxer and the methods he followed to succeed. It's called *Yes, I Beat You Pacquiao*. Chapter 1: Acceptance. ...

Chapter 2: Relationships. In less time than a Las Vegas jail term, **TMT**, the promotional company formed by **50 Cent** and Mayweather Jr., had reportedly dissolved, and 50 was said to be partnering up with **Pacquiao** instead. At the risk of having that fall apart and a 50 Cent-Mike Tyson company taking its place before this hits the stands, we'll just leave it at that. ...

Alejandro "Timon" Martinez, who suffered a stroke and went into a coma following a 10-round beating from junior bantamweight **Juan Alberto Rosas** in 2009, died of pneumonia in his native Costa Rica on Aug. 18. He was 27 years old with a professional record of 15-2-1 (11 knockouts). ...

And another loss: **Tom Kenville** passed away at age 82 on Sept. 4. Kenville was a sportswriter for *The Associated Press and The New York Times*, worked in promotions for Madison Square Garden and was a publicist for Muhammad Ali, among other things. Kenville was of much greater value to the sport than his resume, though. As described by Jack Hirsch, president of the Boxing Writers Association of America (for which Kenville was a Board member): "You can say that Kenville's passing marks the end of an era. Any written archives on the history of the BWAA pale in comparison to the great stories he told." ■

Corrie Sanders was best known for stopping **Wladimir Klitschko** in 2003. Image: **Andres Rentz-Bongarts-Getty Images**

CORRIE SANDERS

By **Gavin Evans**

Corrie Sanders will be remembered as the South African southpaw who shocked the boxing world by blowing away Wladimir Klitschko in two rounds on March 8, 2003.

Only three minutes, 27 seconds into the fight, Klitschko, the WBO titlist, had been deposited on his back four times by the quick and heavy hands of the 6-foot-4, 225-pound 37-year-old from Pretoria.

Sanders died from gunshot wounds to the stomach after diving in front of his daughter when robbers opened fire at a birthday party in a Johannesburg restaurant on Sept. 23.

"We will remember Corrie as a great person both inside and outside the ring. He was a great fighter with a big heart who always positively represented the sport of boxing," read a joint statement from the Klitschko brothers.

Sanders' victory over Klitschko should have been the beginning of big things but contractual problems and injuries kept him out for 14 months. He returned against Vitali Klitschko undertrained and overweight. Still, he managed to wobble the older brother before being stopped in eight.

Sanders was a natural athlete who played center for Northern Transvaal B in rugby, the rough equivalent of being a running back on an NFL reserve squad. He also ran the 100 meters in 10.9 seconds and had a one handicap in golf. And he had a sterling amateur career, with a record of 180-11 that included four decisive victories over Frans Botha.

He was fast on his feet, with quick reflexes and wonderful hand-eye coordination, excellent defensive skills and knockout power in both hands. But his chin was dodgy and his dedication erratic.

The former police officer turned pro in 1989 and won his first 23 fights, including victories over Johnny du Plooy, Bert Cooper, Mike Williams and Johnny Nelson, before being poleaxed in two by Nate Tubbs in 1994. He slowly rebuilt and got his chance against Hasim Rahman in 2000. He dropped the American and was well on top before being overpowered in seven.

After beating Wladimir and losing to Vitali, he had just three more low-key wins. He retired aged 42 after suffering a first-round knockout against Osborne Machimana in 2008. His record was 42-4 (31 knockouts).

Sanders was an unassuming man, refreshingly free from the racial prejudice that characterised many Afrikaners of his generation. For example, he went out of his way to visit Baby Jake Matlala at his township home in Soweto in 1993 when Matlala won the WBO flyweight title. Matlala returned the compliment a decade later. ■

BY HEATHER SHANHOLTZ

LETICIA FARR

Image: **Dave Alan**

HEIGHT: 5-foot-4
WEIGHT: 118 pounds
MEASUREMENTS: 34-26-34
STANCE: Orthodox
REACH: 22 inches
FAVORITE BOXER: Manny Pacquiao
HOMETOWN: Brazil
CURRENT LOCATION: Las Vegas
WHERE YOU'VE SEEN HER: Ultimate MMA Magazine, MMA UNCAGED Magazine, Models Mania, CRED Magazine
BOOKING INFO: Leticiafarr@gmail.com
ModelMayhem.com/leticiafarr.com
Facebook.com/leticia.farr

LETICIA FARR

Image: Dave Alan

THE RING CARD GIRL OF THE MONTH BY: **HEATHER SHANHOLTZ**

WWW.HEATHERSHANHOLTZ.COM | WWW.TWITTER.COM/HSHANHOLTZ | WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/MODELHEATHER

DO YOU WANT TO BE A RING CARD GIRL OF THE MONTH?

submit photos and bio to **ringcardgirl@sepublications.com**

Image: Dave Alan

Andre Ward reached new heights with his knockout victory over **Chad Dawson**. Image: **Alexis Cuarezma**

FIGHTER OF THE MONTH:

ANDRE WARD

By **Michael Rosenthal**

No one was surprised that Andre Ward defeated Chad Dawson on Sept. 8 in Oakland, Calif., Ward's hometown.

THE RING super middleweight champion has navigated his way through a gauntlet of elite opponents the past few years and emerged on the other side as one of the best fighters in the world. We expect him to win.

It was HOW he won on Sept. 8 that took us aback.

Dawson, THE RING light heavyweight champ, was perceived to be the stronger man and possessing of skills comparable to those of Ward. It was no stretch to suggest Dawson represented Ward's biggest challenge to date.

Ward's response? He put the bigger man down three times and forced him to quit, scoring a spectacular knockout at 2:45 of the 10th round. Afterward, Dawson said what more and more people are starting to understand: "He really is one of the best."

Indeed.

The one thing missing from Ward's resume was a knockout victory over a big-name opponent. He recorded dominating triumphs over Edison Miranda, Mikkel Kessler, Allan Green, Sakio Bika, Arthur Abraham and Carl Froch but all went to the cards.

Ward took a different route on Sept. 8, stopping the best light heavyweight in the world in a manner that stirs the masses. It was an important step in the career of a budding superstar. ■

POUND FOR POUND:
Andre Ward's bulldozing of light heavyweight champion Chad Dawson was pound-for-pound stuff. He rose from No. 5 to No. 3 behind the deadlocked duo, Manny Pacquiao and Floyd Mayweather Jr., while Dawson (No. 10 last month) was replaced by bantamweight Anselmo Moreno.

HEAVYWEIGHTS:
No change.

CRUISERWEIGHTS:
Steve Cunningham's victory over Jason Gavern made his move to heavyweight official, thus he vacated the No. 3 spot and pulled everyone below up a notch. That made room at No. 10 for undefeated Polish fighter Pawel Kolodziej. Kolodziej's reign only lasted a week before he was replaced by Troy Ross, who put in an impressive performance in his unanimous-decision loss to champion Yoan Pablo Hernandez.

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS:
No change.

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS:
Robert Stieglitz (No. 2 last month) lost a unanimous decision in Germany to Arthur Abraham (No. 8 at the time), who jumped up to No. 4 as a result. Stieglitz fell to No. 8, lifting Lucian Bute and Thomas Oosthuizen to the Nos. 2 and 3 spots, respectively.

MIDDLEWEIGHTS:
Felix Sturm (No. 1 last month) lost a split decision to Daniel Geale (No. 2 last month) in Germany, so the two of them switched positions. The bigger story that same night was Gennady Golovkin (No. 8 last month), who lived up to all the hype and destroyed a very game Grzegorz Proksa (No. 9 at the time) in five rounds. Proksa hung on at No. 10 for his efforts, while Golovkin surged to No. 4. The Sept. 15 card in Las Vegas brought a pair of flip-flops: After his loss to Sergio Martinez, Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. (No. 3 last month) switched with Golovkin, and Matthew Macklin (No. 7 at the time) knocked out unrated Joachim Alcine in one round to take the No. 6 spot from Hassan N'Dam N'Jikam.

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS:
No change.

WELTERWEIGHTS:
No change.

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS:
Lucas Matthysse (No. 1 last month) couldn't rise in the ratings, but he put on a how-to clinic in bludgeoning Olusegun Ajose (No. 9 last month), who lasted nine-plus rounds before being stopped but stayed in the ratings at No. 10 for being such a badass.

LIGHTWEIGHTS:
Antonio DeMarco overwhelmed John Molina (No. 6 at the time) in 44 seconds to hold his No. 1 spot. Molina dropped out, allowing Japanese fighter Nihito Arakawa, who is on a six-year winning streak, entered at No. 10.

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS:
No change.

FEATHERWEIGHTS:
After a head butt in Round 8 put the fight into the judges' hands, Daniel Ponce de Leon (No. 8 last month) scored an upset technical decision over No. 4-rated Jhonny Gonzalez. Ponce de Leon rose to No. 5 while Gonzalez fell to No. 7.

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS:
No change.

▶ It had been a while since **Arthur Abraham** raised a world title belt. Image: **John MacDougall-AFP-Getty Images**

BANTAMWEIGHTS:
Leo Santa Cruz (No. 7 last month) looked impressive in a fifth-round stoppage of veteran Eric Morel, who gave up his No. 5 spot to Santa Cruz and dropped to No. 10.

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS:
Tepparith Singwancha stayed put at No. 2 after winning a majority decision over Nobuo Nashiro, who slipped from No. 7 to No. 10.

FLYWEIGHTS:
Moruti Mthalane (No. 4 last month) climbed a notch after his eight-round stoppage of unrated Ricardo Nunez in Panama.

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS:
No change.

STRAWWEIGHTS:
A stunning seventh-round stoppage of No. 2-rated Nkosinathi Joyi heralded the arrival of previously-unrated Mario Rodriguez in the No. 6 slot, while Joyi dropped to No. 7. ■

Manuel Charr (left) put up little resistance against **Vitali Klitschko**. Image: **Lars Baron-Bongarts-Getty Images**

SCAN THIS QR CODE FOR UPDATED RATINGS AT RINGTV.COM.

HEAVYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT UNLIMITED

C **WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO**
Ukraine | 58-3-0 (51 KOs)

1. **VITALI KLITSCHKO**
Ukraine | 45-2-0 (41 KOs)
2. **ALEXANDER POVETKIN**
Russia | 24-0-0 (16 KOs)
3. **TOMASZ ADAMEK**
Poland | 47-2-0 (29 KOs)
4. **DAVID HAYE**
UK | 26-2-0 (24 KOs)
5. **KUBRAT PULEV**
Bulgaria | 16-0-0 (8 KOs)
6. **ROBERT HELENIUS**
Finland | 17-0-0 (11 KOs)
7. **DENIS BOYTSOV**
Russia | 31-0-0 (25 KOs)
8. **RUSLAN CHAGAEV**
Uzbekistan | 30-2-1 (19 KOs)
9. **CHRIS ARREOLA**
U.S. | 35-2-0 (30 KOs)
10. **TYSON FURY**
UK | 19-0-0 (14 KOs)

CRUISERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 200 LBS

C **YOAN PABLO HERNANDEZ**
Cuba | 27-1-0 (13 KOs)

1. **MARCO HUCK**
Germany | 34-2-1 (25 KOs)
2. **KRZYSZTOF WLODARCZYK**
Poland | 46-2-1 (33 KOs)
3. **OLA AFOLABI**
UK | 19-2-4 (9 KOs)
4. **DENIS LEBEDEV**
Russia | 24-1-0 (18 KOs)
5. **ANTONIO TARVER**
U.S. | 29-6-1 (20 KOs)
6. **GUILLERMO JONES**
Panama | 38-3-2 (30 KOs)
7. **LATEEF KAYODE**
Nigeria | 18-0-1 (14 KOs)
8. **GIACOBBE FRAGOMENI**
Italy | 29-3-2 (12 KOs)
9. **MATEUSZ MASTERNAK**
Poland | 28-0-0 (21 KOs)
10. **TROY ROSS**
Canada | 25-3-0 (16 KOs)

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 175 LBS

C **CHAD DAWSON**
U.S. | 31-2-0 (17 KOs)

1. **BERNARD HOPKINS**
U.S. | 52-6-2 (32 KOs)
2. **JEAN PASCAL**
Canada | 26-2-1 (16 KOs)
3. **TAVORIS CLOUD**
U.S. | 24-0-0 (19 KOs)
4. **NATHAN CLEVERLY**
UK | 24-0-0 (11 KOs)
5. **GABRIEL CAMPILLO**
Spain | 21-4-1 (8 KOs)
6. **BEIBUT SHUMENOV**
Kazakhstan | 13-1-0 (8 KOs)
7. **KARO MURAT**
Germany | 25-1-1 (15 KOs)
8. **MIKKEL KESSLER**
Denmark | 45-2-0 (34 KOs)
9. **ISAAC CHILEMBA**
Malawi | 19-1-1 (9 KOs)
10. **JUERGEN BRAEHMER**
Germany | 38-2-0 (30 KOs)

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 168 LBS

C **ANDRE WARD**
U.S. | 26-0-0 (14 KOs)

1. **CARL FROCH**
UK | 29-2-0 (21 KOs)
2. **LUCIAN BUTE**
Romania | 30-1-0 (24 KOs)
3. **THOMAS OOSTHUIZEN**
South Africa | 20-0-1 (13 KOs)
4. **ARTHUR ABRAHAM**
Armenia | 35-3-0 (27 KOs)
5. **ROBERT STIEGLITZ**
Russia | 42-3-0 (23 KOs)
6. **SAKIO BIKA**
Cameroon | 30-5-2 (21 KOs)
7. **GEORGE GROVES**
UK | 15-0-0 (12 KOs)
8. **ANDRE DIRRELL**
U.S. | 20-1-0 (14 KOs)
9. **EDWIN RODRIGUEZ**
Dominican Rep. | 21-0-0 (14 KOs)
10. **ADONIS STEVENSON**
Canada | 18-1-0 (15 KOs)

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 160 LBS

C SERGIO MARTINEZ
Argentina | 50-2-2 (28 KOs)

1. **DANIEL GEALE**
Australia | 28-1-0 (15 KOs)
2. **FELIX STURM**
Germany | 37-3-2 (16 KOs)
3. **GENNADY GOLOVKIN**
Kazakhstan | 24-0-0 (21 KOs)
4. **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ JR.**
Mexico | 46-1-1 (32 KOs)
5. **DMITRY PIROG**
Russia | 20-0-0 (15 KOs)
6. **MATTHEW MACKLIN**
UK | 29-4-0 (20 KOs)
7. **HASSAN N'DAM N'JIKAM**
France | 27-0-0 (17 KOs)
8. **MARTIN MURRAY**
UK | 24-0-1 (10 KOs)
9. **PETER QUILLIN**
U.S. | 27-0-0 (20 KOs)
10. **GRZEGORZ PROKSA**
Poland | 28-2-0 (21 KOs)

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 154 LBS

C VACANT

1. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.**
U.S. | 43-0-0 (26 KOs)
2. **MIGUEL COTTO**
Puerto Rico | 37-3-0 (30 KOs)
3. **SAUL ALVAREZ**
Mexico | 41-0-1 (30 KOs)
4. **ERISLANDY LARA**
Cuba | 17-1-1 (11 KOs)
5. **VANES MARTIROSYAN**
U.S. | 32-0-0 (20 KOs)
6. **CARLOS MOLINA**
Mexico | 20-5-2 (6 KOs)
7. **JAMES KIRKLAND**
U.S. | 31-1-0 (27 KOs)
8. **CORNELIUS BUNDRAGE**
U.S. | 32-4-0 (19 KOs)
9. **ALFREDO ANGULO**
Mexico | 20-2-0 (17 KOs)
10. **AUSTIN TROUT**
U.S. | 25-0-0 (14 KOs)

WELTERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 147 LBS

C VACANT

1. **MANNY PACQUIAO**
Philippines | 54-4-2 (38 KOs)
2. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.**
U.S. | 43-0-0 (26 KOs)
3. **KELL BROOK**
UK | 28-0-0 (18 KOs)
4. **PAULIE MALIGNAGGI**
U.S. | 31-4-0 (7 KOs)
5. **JAN ZAVECK**
Slovenia | 32-2-0 (18 KOs)
6. **TIMOTHY BRADLEY**
U.S. | 29-0-0 (12 KOs)
7. **RANDALL BAILEY**
U.S. | 43-7-0 (37 KOs)
8. **JOSESITO LOPEZ**
U.S. | 30-5-0 (18 KOs)
9. **VICTOR ORTIZ**
U.S. | 29-4-2 (22 KOs)
10. **ROBERT GUERRERO**
U.S. | 30-1-1 (18 KOs)

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 140 LBS

C DANNY GARCIA
U.S. | 24-0-0 (15 KOs)

1. **LUCAS MATTHYSSE**
Argentina | 32-2-0 (30 KOs)
2. **AMIR KHAN**
UK | 26-3-0 (18 KOs)
3. **ZAB JUDAH**
U.S. | 42-7-0 (29 KOs)
4. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ**
Mexico | 54-6-1 (39 KOs)
5. **MIKE ALVARADO**
U.S. | 33-0-0 (23 KOs)
6. **ERIK MORALES**
Mexico | 52-8-0 (36 KOs)
7. **KHABIB ALLAKHVERDIEV**
Russia | 17-0-0 (8 KOs)
8. **DENIS SHAFIKOV**
Russia | 29-0-1 (17 KOs)
9. **PABLO CESAR CANO**
Mexico | 25-1-1 (19 KOs)
10. **AJOSE OLUSEGUN**
Nigeria | 30-1-0 (14 KOs)

LIGHTWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 135 LBS

C VACANT

1. **ANTONIO DEMARCO**
Mexico | 28-2-1 (21 KOs)
2. **MIGUEL VAZQUEZ**
Mexico | 31-3-0 (13 KOs)
3. **RICKY BURNS**
UK | 34-2-0 (9 KOs)
4. **KEVIN MITCHELL**
UK | 33-1-0 (24 KOs)
5. **JOHN MURRAY**
UK | 31-2-0 (18 KOs)
6. **RICHARD ABRIL**
Cuba | 17-3-1 (8 KOs)
7. **GAVIN REES**
UK | 37-1-1 (18 KOs)
8. **SHARIF BOGERE**
Uganda | 23-0-0 (15 KOs)
9. **RAYMUNDO BELTRAN**
Mexico | 26-6-0 (17 KOs)
10. **NIHITO ARAKAWA**
Japan | 23-1-1 (15 KOs)

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 130 LBS

C VACANT

1. **TAKASHI UCHIYAMA**
Japan | 18-0-1 (15 KOs)
2. **JUAN CARLOS SALGADO**
Mexico | 26-1-1 (16 KOs)
3. **TAKAHIRO AO**
Japan | 23-2-1 (10 KOs)
4. **ROMAN MARTINEZ**
Puerto Rico | 26-1-1 (16 KOs)
5. **DIEGO MAGDALENO**
U.S. | 23-0-0 (9 KOs)
6. **ARGENIS MENDEZ**
Dominican Rep. | 20-2-0 (10 KOs)
7. **JUAN CARLOS BURGOS**
Mexico | 30-1-0 (20 KOs)
8. **JORGE SOLIS**
Mexico | 40-4-2 (29 KOs)
9. **JAVIER FORTUNA**
Dominican Rep. | 20-0-0 (15 KOs)
10. **BRYAN VASQUEZ**
Costa Rica | 29-0-0 (15 KOs)

FEATHERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 126 LBS

C VACANT

1. **YURIORKIS GAMBOA**
Cuba | 21-0-0 (16 KOs)
2. **ORLANDO SALIDO**
Mexico | 39-11-2 (27 KOs)
3. **CHRIS JOHN**
Indonesia | 47-0-2 (22 KOs)
4. **MIKEY GARCIA**
U.S. | 29-0-0 (25 KOs)
5. **DANIEL PONCE DE LEON**
Mexico | 44-4-0 (35 KOs)
6. **BILLY DIB**
Australia | 35-1-0 (21 KOs)
7. **JHONNY GONZALEZ**
Mexico | 52-8-0 (45 KOs)
8. **JUAN MANUEL LOPEZ**
Puerto Rico | 31-2-0 (28 KOs)
9. **CELESTINO CABALLERO**
Panama | 36-4-0 (23 KOs)
10. **HOZUMI HASEGAWA**
Japan | 30-4-0 (13 KOs)

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 122 LBS

C VACANT

1. **TOSHIAKI NISHIOKA**
Japan | 39-4-3 (24 KOs)
2. **GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX**
Cuba | 11-0-0 (8 KOs)
3. **NONITO DONAIRE**
Philippines | 29-1-0 (18 KOs)
4. **AKIFUMA SHIMODA**
Japan | 26-3-1 (11 KOs)
5. **P. KRATINGDAENGGYM**
Thailand | 47-2-0 (33 KOs)
6. **JEFFREY MATHEBULA**
South Africa | 26-4-2 (14 KOs)
7. **ABNER MARES**
U.S. | 24-0-1 (13 KOs)
8. **TAKALANI NDLOVU**
South Africa | 33-7-0 (18 KOs)
9. **STEVE MOLITOR**
Canada | 34-2-0 (12 KOs)
10. **RICO RAMOS**
U.S. | 21-1-0 (11 KOs)

HOW OUR RATINGS ARE COMPILED

Championship vacancies can be filled in the following two ways: 1. THE RING's Nos. 1 and 2 contenders fight one another; 2. If the Nos. 1 and 2 contenders chose not to fight one another and either of them fights No. 3, No. 4 or No. 5, the winner may be awarded THE RING belt if the Editorial Board deems the contenders worthy.

A champion can lose his belt in six situations: 1. The Champion loses a fight in the weight class in which he is champion; 2. The Champion moves to another weight class; 3. The Champion does not schedule a fight in any weight class for 18 months; 4. The Champion does not schedule a fight at his championship weight for 18 months (even if he fights at another weight); 5. The Champion does not schedule a fight with a Top-5 contender from any weight class for two years; 6. The Champion retires.

THE RING Ratings are compiled by the magazine's Editorial Board, with the participation of THE RING Ratings Panel of boxing journalists from around the world. To see the complete list of our panelists, click on RATINGS at RingTV.com.

Records provided by boxrec.com

BANTAMWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 118 LBS

C **VACANT**

1. **ANSELMO MORENO**
Panama | 33-1-1 (12 KOs)
2. **JOSEPH AGBEKO**
Ghana | 28-4-0 (22 KOs)
3. **SHINSUKE YAMANAKA**
Japan | 16-0-2 (11 KOs)
4. **KOKI KAMEDA**
Japan | 28-1-0 (17 KOs)
5. **LEO SANTA CRUZ**
Mexico | 21-0-1 (12 KOs)
6. **MALCOLM TUNACAO**
Philippines | 31-2-3 (19 KOs)
7. **JORGE ARCE**
Mexico | 60-6-2 (46 KOs)
8. **HUGO RUIZ**
Mexico | 31-1-0 (28 KOs)
9. **A.J. BANAL**
Philippines | 28-1-1 (20 KOs)
10. **ERIC MOREL**
U.S. | 46-4-0 (23 KOs)

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 115 LBS

C **VACANT**

1. **OMAR NARVAEZ**
Argentina | 36-1-2 (19 KOs)
2. **TEPPARITH SINGWANCHA**
Thailand | 21-2-0 (13 KOs)
3. **YOTA SATO**
Japan | 25-2-1 (12 KOs)
4. **SURIYAN SOR RUNGVISAI**
Thailand | 20-5-1 (7 KOs)
5. **TOMONOBU SHIMIZU**
Japan | 19-4-1 (9 KOs)
6. **JUAN CARLOS SANCHEZ JR.**
Mexico | 14-1-1 (7 KOs)
7. **CARLOS CUADRAS**
Mexico | 25-0-0 (21 KOs)
8. **RODEL MAYOL**
Philippines | 31-5-2 (22 KOs)
9. **RYO AKAHO**
Japan | 19-0-2 (12 KOs)
10. **NOBUO NASHIRO**
Japan | 18-5-1 (12 KOs)

FLYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 112 LBS

C **TOSHIYUKI IGARASHI**
Japan | 16-1-1 (10 KOs)

1. **HERNAN MARQUEZ**
Mexico | 34-2-0 (25 KOs)
2. **BRIAN VILORIA**
U.S. | 31-3-0 (18 KOs)
3. **MORUTI MTHALANE**
S. Africa | 29-2-0 (20 KOs)
4. **SONNY BOY JARO**
Philippines | 34-11-5 (24 KOs)
5. **MILAN MELINDO**
Philippines | 27-0-0 (11 KOs)
6. **PONGSAKLEK WONJONGKAM**
Thailand | 86-4-2 (45 KOs)
7. **ROCKY FUENTES**
Philippines | 33-6-2 (20 KOs)
8. **JUAN CARLOS REVECO**
Argentina | 28-1-0 (16 KOs)
9. **EDGAR SOSA**
Mexico | 46-7-0 (28 KOs)
10. **LUIS CONCEPCION**
Panama | 26-3-0 (20 KOs)

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 108 LBS

C **VACANT**

1. **ROMAN GONZALEZ**
Nicaragua | 32-0-0 (27 KOs)
2. **ULISES SOLIS**
Mexico | 34-2-3 (21 KOs)
3. **DONNIE NIETES**
Philippines | 30-1-3 (16 KOs)
4. **K. PORPRAMOOK**
Thailand | 46-3-0 (31 KOs)
5. **MASAYUKI KURODA**
Japan | 21-3-1 (13 KOs)
6. **ADRIAN HERNANDEZ**
Mexico | 24-2-1 (15 KOs)
7. **RYO MIYAZAKI**
Japan | 17-0-3 (10 KOs)
8. **JOHNRIEL CASIMERO**
Philippines | 17-2-0 (10 KOs)
9. **RYOICHI TAGUCHI**
Japan | 17-1-1 (8 KOs)
10. **ALBERTO ROSSEL**
Peru | 29-8-0 (13 KOs)

STRAWWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 105 LBS

C **VACANT**

1. **KAZUTO IOKA**
Japan | 10-0-0 (6 KOs)
2. **MOISES FUENTES**
Mexico | 15-1-0 (7 KOs)
3. **RAUL GARCIA**
Mexico | 32-2-1 (20 KOs)
4. **DENVER CUELLO**
Philippines | 31-4-6 (21 KOs)
5. **WANHENG MENAYOTHIN**
Thailand | 23-0-0 (7 KOs)
6. **MARIO RODRIGUEZ**
Mexico | 15-6-4 (11 KOs)
7. **NKOSINATHI JOYI**
South Africa | 22-1-0 (15 KOs)
8. **FLORANTE CONDES**
Philippines | 25-6-1 (21 KOs)
9. **KATSUNARI TAKAYAMA**
Japan | 24-5-0 (10 KOs)
10. **AKIRA YAEGASHI**
Japan | 15-3-0 (8 KOs)

POUND FOR POUND

***NOTE:** The No. 1 position is vacant.*

2. **MANNY PACQUIAO** (TIE)
Philippines | 54-4-2 (38 KOs) | WELTERWEIGHT
2. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR** (TIE)
U.S. | 43-0-0 (26 KOs) | WELTERWEIGHT
3. **ANDRE WARD**
U.S. | 26-0-0 (14 KOs) | SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT
4. **SERGIO MARTINEZ**
Argentina | 50-2-2 (28 KOs) | MIDDLEWEIGHT
5. **NONITO DONAIRE**
Philippines | 29-1-0 (18 KOs) | JR. FEATHERWEIGHT
6. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ**
Mexico | 54-6-1 (39 KOs) | JR. WELTERWEIGHT
7. **WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO**
Ukraine | 58-3-0 (51 KOs) | HEAVYWEIGHT
8. **TIMOTHY BRADLEY**
U.S. | 29-0-0 (12 KOs) | WELTERWEIGHT
9. **VITALI KLITSCHKO**
Ukraine | 45-2-0 (41 KOs) | HEAVYWEIGHT
10. **ANSELMO MORENO**
Panama | 33-1-1 (12 KOs) | BANTAMWEIGHT

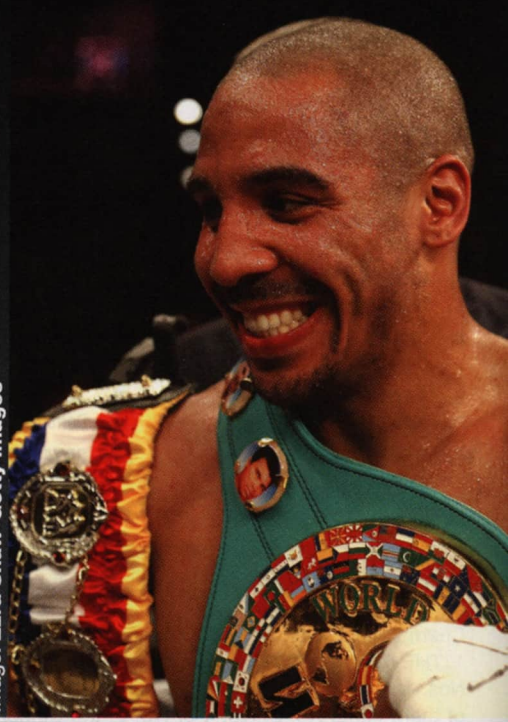


Image: Ezra Shaw-Getty Images

THE RING POLICY ON RATED BOXERS WHO TEST POSITIVE FOR PERFORMANCE-ENHANCING DRUGS

THE RING will remove from its ratings any rated boxer — including a champion — if such boxer at some point undergoes drug testing (Olympic-style or otherwise) and that boxer tests positive for a performance-enhancing drug.

In the event that a boxer has undergone testing in which the boxer provides two samples ("A" and "B") and the boxer's "A" and subsequent "B" samples test positive for a performance-enhancing drug or if his "A" sample tests positive and he waives his right to have the "B" sample tested then the boxer shall immediately be removed from the ratings.

A boxer whose "A" sample tested positive and is awaiting the results of his "B" sample will not be allowed to fight for a championship or rise in the ratings.

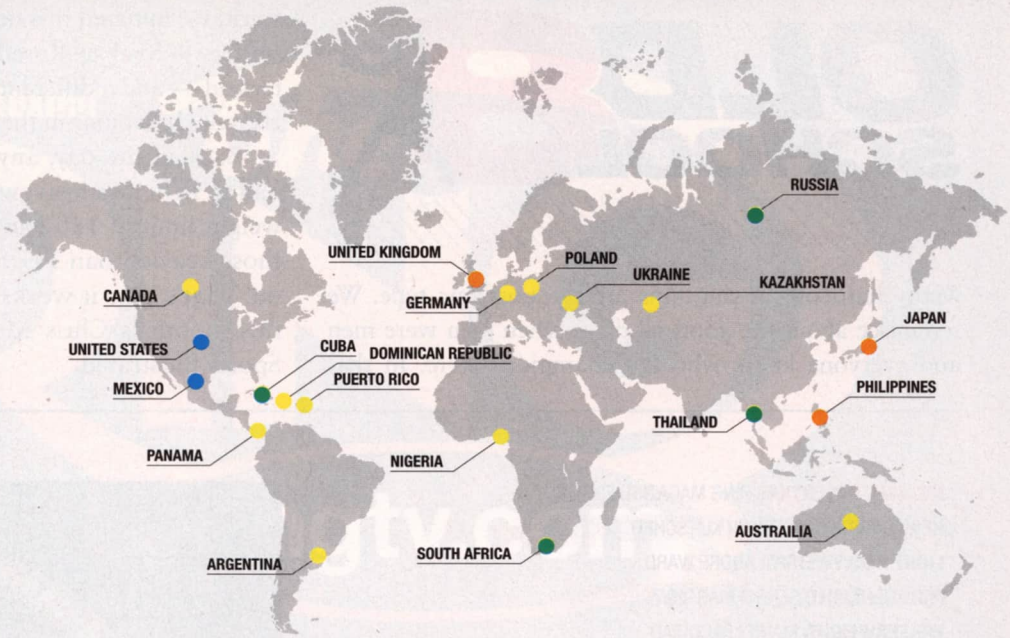
A boxer who is removed because of a positive test will have the opportunity to earn his way back into the ratings after any suspension period is completed.

A boxer who is dropped also may be reinstated if the testing agency subsequently reverses its decision or a court of competent jurisdiction finds that the test result was invalid.

RATED FIGHTERS BY COUNTRY

UNITED STATES	29*
MEXICO	28
JAPAN	19
UNITED KINGDOM	14
PHILIPPINES	12
RUSSIA	7
THAILAND	6
CUBA	5
SOUTH AFRICA	5
ARGENTINA	4
CANADA	4
GERMANY	4
PANAMA	4
POLAND	4
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	3
PUERTO RICO	3
AUSTRALIA	2
KAZAKHSTAN	2
NIGERIA	2
UKRAINE	2
ARMENIA	1
BULGARIA	1
CAMEROON	1
COSTA RICA	1
DENMARK	1
FINLAND	1
FRANCE	1
GHANA	1
INDONESIA	1
ITALY	1
MALAWI	1
NICARAGUA	1
PERU	1
ROMANIA	1
SLOVENIA	1
SPAIN	1
UGANDA	1
UZBEKISTAN	1

*Includes two ratings for Floyd Mayweather Jr. (junior middleweight, welterweight)



U.S. VS. MEXICO

Mexico is gaining fast on the U.S. The Americans went into the past month with four more rated fighters than their rivals to the south. However, two U.S. fighters dropped out and one from Mexico entered the ratings, cutting the Americans' lead to only one in this month's ratings. And Floyd Mayweather Jr. is listed twice because he is rated in both the welterweight and junior middleweight divisions, meaning the two countries have the same number of rated fighters. Thus, we thought it was appropriate to re-visit the sport's greatest rivalry here.

DIVISION	U.S.	MEXICO
HEAVYWEIGHTS	1	0
CRUISERWEIGHTS	1	0
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS	3	0
SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	2	0
MIDDLEWEIGHTS	1	1
JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS	5	3
WELTERWEIGHTS	7	0
JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS	3	3
LIGHTWEIGHTS	0	3
JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS	1	3
FEATHERWEIGHTS	1	3
JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS	2	0
BANTAMWEIGHTS	1	3
JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS	0	2
FLYWEIGHTS	1	2
JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS	0	2
STRAWWEIGHTS	0	3
TOTAL	29	28

NOTE: *The country of fighters who have spent large portions of their lives in two countries was determined primarily by where they spent the bulk of their childhood.*

POUND FOR POUND

Our last pound-for-pound chart gave you the countries with the most rated fighters per capita. This month, we list the countries with the most rated fighters per square mile of land area. The figures below are the number of square miles for every rated fighter in that country.

COUNTRY	MILES	(KILOMETERS)
1. PUERTO RICO	2,856	(4,597)
2. DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	10,081	(16,223)
3. UNITED KINGDOM	10,812	(17,401)
4. PANAMA	11,716	(18,855)
5. JAPAN	12,359	(19,890)
6. SLOVENIA	12,597	(20,273)
7. CUBA	13,777	(22,172)
8. PHILIPPINES	15,534	(25,000)
9. ARMENIA	18,481	(29,743)
10. DENMARK	26,777	(43,094)

NOTE: *The country with the fewest number of rated fighters in relation to its size is Russia, which has one per 2,442,606 square miles (1,517,764 square kilometers). The U.S. has one rated fighter per 210,552 square miles (338,851 square kilometers).*

SOURCE: *CIA Factbook*

OLD SCHOOL 8

Many hardcore boxing fans are the nostalgic type. We reminisce about the good ol' days, when men were men and everyone knew who the champions were. In that spirit, we initiated this new feature in which THE RING staffers — Michael Rosenthal, Doug Fischer and Lem Satterfield — and a different guest each month provide their current champions in the original eight weight classes.

Back in the day, anyone heavier than 175 pounds had to fight as a heavyweight, fighters over the middleweight limit of 160 had to fight as light heavyweights, those heavier than 147 fought as middleweights and so on. That's how it works in our new feature. Our guest this month is Chris Mannix, who covers boxing for Sports Illustrated.

MICHAEL ROSENTHAL RING MAGAZINE EDITOR
HEAVYWEIGHT: WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT: ANDRE WARD
MIDDLEWEIGHT: SERGIO MARTINEZ
WELTERWEIGHT: MANNY PACQUIAO
LIGHTWEIGHT: ADRIEN BRONER
FEATHERWEIGHT: ORLANDO SALIDO
BANTAMWEIGHT: ANSELMO MORENO
FLYWEIGHT: BRIAN VILORIA

DOUG FISCHER RINGTV.COM EDITOR
HEAVYWEIGHT: WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT: ANDRE WARD
MIDDLEWEIGHT: SERGIO MARTINEZ
WELTERWEIGHT: MANNY PACQUIAO
LIGHTWEIGHT: MIGUEL VAZQUEZ
FEATHERWEIGHT: YURIORKIS GAMBOA
BANTAMWEIGHT: ANSELMO MORENO
FLYWEIGHT: ROMAN GONZALEZ

LEM SATTERFIELD STAFF WRITER
HEAVYWEIGHT: WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT: ANDRE WARD
MIDDLEWEIGHT: SERGIO MARTINEZ
WELTERWEIGHT: FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.
LIGHTWEIGHT: MIGUEL VAZQUEZ
FEATHERWEIGHT: ABNER MARES
BANTAMWEIGHT: ANSELMO MORENO
FLYWEIGHT: BRIAN VILORIA

CHRIS MANNIX BOXING WRITER
HEAVYWEIGHT: WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT: ANDRE WARD
MIDDLEWEIGHT: SERGIO MARTINEZ
WELTERWEIGHT: FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.
LIGHTWEIGHT: ANTONIO DEMARCO
FEATHERWEIGHT: NONITO DONAIRE
BANTAMWEIGHT: ANSELMO MORENO
FLYWEIGHT: ROMAN GONZALEZ

NOTE: *THESE LISTS WERE COMPILED THROUGH FIGHTS AS OF SEPTEMBER 17.*

BOXERS ORGANIZING COMMITTEE (BOC)
BOC
FOUNDED 1988

Boxers Organizing Committee (BOC)

Paul Johnson
Executive Director

763-438-2447

johnson4042@aol.com

www.boxers.org

Attention Boxers: Please contact us to discuss your rights!

"Boxers must be part of the equation."
— BOC Member José Chegüi Torres

"The Bible Of Boxing"®

The RING

ringtv.com®

RingTV.com gives you on a daily basis what the THE RING magazine gives you each month – the best boxing coverage in the world.

Here are just a few of the many features on RingTV.com:

The most-complete day-to-day coverage of the boxing world, including news, award-winning feature stories and photos, unparalleled previews and live fight coverage.

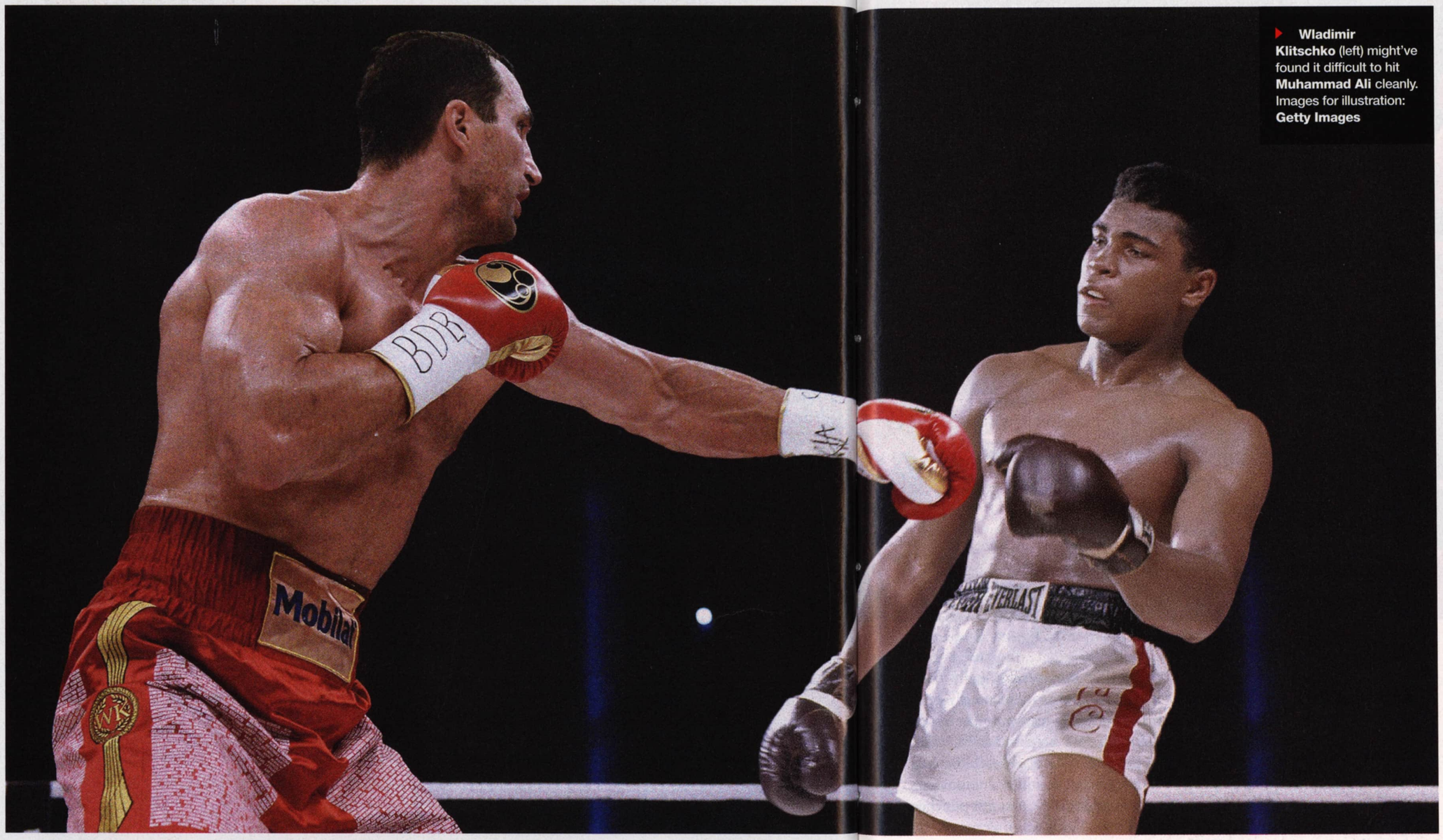
The world's most-respected ratings in all 17 weight classes and pound for pound updated every week.

Live streams of fight cards (including Fight Night Club), weigh-ins, interviews and more.

RingTV, our weekly video show featuring Co-Editors Doug Fischer and Michael Rosenthal in which we review past fights and look forward to upcoming events.

High-quality videos of a variety of events and interviews with the biggest names in the sport.

Up-to-date schedule of major boxing cards.



Wladimir Klitschko (left) might've found it difficult to hit Muhammad Ali cleanly. Images for illustration: Getty Images

KLITSCHKO VS. THE LEGENDS

HERE'S HOW WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO WOULD HAVE DONE AGAINST 10 GREATS.

By **Don Stradley**

For those who are tired of watching Wladimir Klitschko dust off his competition, THE RING is offering a temporary balm this month. No, we haven't finally talked him into fighting his brother Vitali. But we are reviving an old journalistic chestnut and matching him against some legendary figures from boxing's past.

"Dream bout" articles are tricky. Would Klitschko and these phantoms of yore go 15 rounds or 12? Do they use up-to-date gloves or old-style gloves with unattached thumbs? Is the referee from this era or an old time ref who allows the fight to continue through blood and multiple knockdowns? But even if the bouts take place under some sort of "unified rules of boxing eras," matching THE RING heavyweight champion against the legends is difficult for other reasons. For one,

TALE OF THE TAPE

NOTE: The weights are estimates based on an average during the fighters' primes.

WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO

HEIGHT: 6-6
WEIGHT: 245 pounds
REACH: 81 inches
RECORD: 56-3, 51 KOs
WINNING PERCENTAGE: 95.1
KO PERCENTAGE: 83.6
STANCE: Orthodox

JOE LOUIS VS. KLITSCHKO

(Comparison to Klitschko in parentheses)

HEIGHT: 6-2 (- 4 inches)
WEIGHT: 205 (- 40 pounds)
REACH: 76 (- 5 inches)
RECORD: 66-3, 52 KOs
WINNING PERCENTAGE: 95.7 (+ .6)
KO PERCENTAGE: 75.4 (- 8.2)
STANCE: Orthodox

MARCIANO VS. KLITSCHKO

(Comparison to Klitschko in parentheses)

HEIGHT: 5-11 (- 7)
WEIGHT: 187 (- 58)
REACH: 67 (- 14)
RECORD: 49-0, 43 KOs
WINNING PERCENTAGE: 100 (+ 4.9)
KO PERCENTAGE: 87.7 (+ 4.1)
STANCE: Orthodox

PATTERSON VS. KLITSCHKO

(Comparison to Klitschko in parentheses)

HEIGHT: 6-0 (- 6)
WEIGHT: 189 (- 56)
REACH: 71 (- 10)
RECORD: 55-8-1, 40 KOs
WINNING PERCENTAGE: 85.9 (- 9.1)
KO PERCENTAGE: 62.5 (- 21.1)
STANCE: Orthodox

LISTON VS. KLITSCHKO

(Comparison to Klitschko in parentheses)

HEIGHT: 6-0 ½ (- 5 ½)
WEIGHT: 216 (- 29)
REACH: 84 (+ 3)
RECORD: 50-4, 39 KOs
WINNING PERCENTAGE: 92.6 (- 2.5)
KO PERCENTAGE: 72.2 (- 11.4)
STANCE: Orthodox

Would **Sonny Liston** (right) have forced **Wladimir Klitschko** to fight? Images for illustration: **Getty Images** and **THE RING**

even Klitschko's keenest admirers agree that he has ruled over a poor era for heavyweights. They'd also admit that his chin would probably fail him in a shootout. Still, some think Klitschko might do well against the men who preceded him on the throne.

"It sounds like sacrilege but I think Wladimir would beat many of the old-time heavyweight greats," said veteran boxing journalist Graham Houston, who has covered boxing since 1960. "Klitschko, to use the modern term, would be a bad style match-up. He's just too big."

On the other hand, ESPN's Teddy Atlas is among those who don't feel Klitschko's style or size count for much. The Klitschko who suffered some embarrassing losses early in his career is the real Klitschko, according to Atlas, "and that guy doesn't have the character to compete with the great fighters of the past."

We told you this wouldn't be easy.

Along with Atlas and Houston, THE RING asked HBO's Larry Merchant, Showtime's Steve Farhood and veteran promoter Don Chargin for their take on Klitschko vs. 10 heavyweight "greats."

JOE LOUIS

Louis destroyed many oversized opponents. Klitschko is more athletic than the big men of Louis' day, but if Louis could hit you, he could knock you out. Louis sometimes had trouble with clever boxers, but he usually knocked them out, too. Louis was dropped many times in his career, but they were usually flash knockdowns that momentarily gave his opponents a brief moment of optimism before he dismantled them. In the end, a Louis-Klitschko bout features a fighter with a dubious jaw against perhaps the greatest puncher of all time. Louis was quicker on the inside, and a great finisher. It might take Louis a few rounds to find the range, but the moment he had Klitschko hurt, he would have unloaded the kitchen sink on him.

VERDICT: LOUIS, KO 7

ROCKY MARCIANO

"The Brockton Blockbuster" seemed to have superhuman strength for such a small man. He was a vicious body puncher, threw looping overhand rights and had a left hook that

many fighters would envy, all of which combined to help him win all of his 49 professional contests. He was also a fiend for conditioning and fought as if he feared the promoter would hold his paycheck if he lost. True, Marciano was prone to cuts, but Klitschko is a thumper, not a cutter. Our guess is that a Marciano-Klitschko bout would be ugly, with Klitschko trying to smother Marciano, and Marciano gallantly trying to land something. If the referee didn't disqualify Klitschko for excessive holding – which might have happened had these two fought in the 1940s or 50s – Klitschko could probably go the full route and take more rounds, illustrating that a win is not necessarily a triumph.

VERDICT: KLITSCHKO, DECISION

FLOYD PATTERSON

Not only was Patterson quick as a cat, he was a better than average puncher. Also, he made boxing history by becoming the first man to win the heavyweight title twice. Still, he was small and prone to self-doubt. The man who was so in awe of Sonny Liston might also have been intimidated by Klitschko's massive structure. Patterson might have been so baffled by the mammoth presence in front of him that Klitschko could take his time and nail Patterson with long range shots. You can bet on Patterson hitting the canvas a few times in this one, gamely taking punches until the referee put an end to it.

VERDICT: KLITSCHKO, KO 5

SONNY LISTON

Liston had a brutal left jab and an intimidating presence. For a big man, he was fast on his feet and was quite good at cutting the ring down and cornering opponents. A fierce, aggressive predator, Liston wouldn't allow Klitschko to simply stand in front of him and parry with his jab. Liston would force Klitschko to fight. Klitschko isn't exactly fleet-footed, so he wouldn't be able to avoid Liston as Muhammad Ali did in their two (highly suspicious) bouts. And once Klitschko felt Liston's power, he would come unglued. Plus, if Klitschko managed to get his way for a while, how long would it be before some nasty foreign substance mysteriously appeared on Liston's gloves? Strange things happened when Liston fought. But in his prime no one escaped his gargantuan punches.

VERDICT: LISTON, KO 6

MUHAMMAD ALI

"The Greatest" wouldn't have had an easy time with Klitschko. Ali was the fastest heavyweight in history, with hand speed that would have baffled Klitschko, but one of Ali's failings was that he took opponents lightly and wasn't always in peak condition. This would give Klitschko a chance to make the bout close. Once Klitschko realized Ali didn't have the heaviest of punches, he might open up more than usual. But even if Klitschko connected with some good punches, Ali was incredibly durable. Ali was also a great ring thinker — few were better than he was at outsmarting and outscoring an opponent. Klitschko might win some rounds, and he'd do better than anyone might imagine, but it wouldn't be enough. Thinking he might be behind on points, Ali would come on strong during the last few rounds, land some crackling right leads over Klitschko's lazy left, leaving the big man a little buzzed and wobbly, and bringing the fans to their feet with a dramatic finish.

VERDICT: ALI, DECISION

JOE FRAZIER

Frazier was a fighting machine, wading into opponents, battering their bodies and winging left hooks at their heads. But because his style was all forward motion,

ALI VS. KLITSCHKO

(Comparison to Klitschko in parentheses)

HEIGHT: 6-3 (- 3)
WEIGHT: 218 (- 27)
REACH: 78 (- 3)
RECORD: 56-5, 37 KOs
WINNING PERCENTAGE: 91.8 (- 3.3)
KO PERCENTAGE: 60.7 (- 22.9)
STANCE: Orthodox

FRAZIER VS. KLITSCHKO

(Comparison to Klitschko in parentheses)

HEIGHT: 5-11 ½ (- 6 ½)
WEIGHT: 210 (- 35)
REACH: 73 (- 8)
RECORD: 32-4-1, 27 KOs
WINNING PERCENTAGE: 85.9 (- 9.1)
KO PERCENTAGE: 73.0 (- 10.6)
STANCE: Orthodox

FOREMAN VS. KLITSCHKO

(Comparison to Klitschko in parentheses)

HEIGHT: 6-3 ½ (- 2 ½)
WEIGHT: 237 (- 8)
REACH: 82 (+ 1)
RECORD: 76-5, 68 KOs
WINNING PERCENTAGE: 93.8 (- 1.3)
KO PERCENTAGE: 84.0 (+ .4)
STANCE: Orthodox

HOLMES VS. KLITSCHKO

(Comparison to Klitschko in parentheses)

HEIGHT: 6-3 (- 3)
WEIGHT: 218 (- 27)
REACH: 81 (even)
RECORD: 69-6, 44 KOs
WINNING PERCENTAGE: 92.0 (- 3.1)
KO PERCENTAGE: 58.7 (- 24.9)
STANCE: Orthodox

TYSON VS. KLITSCHKO

(Comparison to Klitschko in parentheses)

HEIGHT: 5-10 (- 8)
WEIGHT: 219 (- 26)
REACH: 71 (- 10)
RECORD: 50-6, 44 KOs
WINNING PERCENTAGE: 89.3 (- 5.8)
KO PERCENTAGE: 75.9 (- 7.7)
STANCE: Orthodox

LEWIS VS. KLITSCHKO

(Comparison to Klitschko in parentheses)

HEIGHT: 6-5 (- 1)
WEIGHT: 240 (- 5)
REACH: 84 (+ 3)
RECORD: 41-2-1, 32 KOs
WINNING PERCENTAGE: 93.2 (- 1.9)
KO PERCENTAGE: 72.7 (- 10.9)
STANCE: Orthodox

he had trouble with big, heavy-handed fighters. Hence, Klitschko might land some bombs and maybe even drop Joe a couple of times. But Klitschko's habit of waiting for the perfect moment to strike would be disastrous against Frazier. "Smokin' Joe" would regroup and start battling Klitschko down the stretch. By the late rounds, Frazier would be gaining steam, hitting the target hard and often.

VERDICT: FRAZIER, DECISION

GEORGE FOREMAN

Whether it was the young intimidator who tried to blow down everything that stood in his way or the wily veteran who became a star again in his 40s, Foreman would give Klitschko nightmares. Foreman could take a punch and would walk through Klitschko's jabs until he could land one of his bludgeoning punches. If Klitschko tried to hold him, Foreman would shove him off. In Foreman's younger days he suffered from stamina problems and was troubled by smart boxers, but even the immature version of Foreman would connect with enough haymakers to melt Klitschko.

VERDICT: FOREMAN, KO 10

LARRY HOLMES

Holmes had a brilliant jab, a deadly-accurate right hand and amazing recuperative powers. He had a nasty attitude, too, and would employ some dirty stuff to help gain a mental edge. Holmes was a rarity, in that he was a bully who had the skill and toughness to back up his bullying. Klitschko's size and conditioning would make the bout interesting, but Holmes' jab would neutralize Klitschko's. Master technician Holmes would also find a way to defuse Klitschko's right. Given Wlad's cautious nature, Holmes would outwork him.

VERDICT: HOLMES, DECISION

George Foreman (left) probably would've been too much for **Wladimir Klitschko** to handle. Images for illustration: **Getty Images and THE RING**

MIKE TYSON

At times, Tyson was a brilliant and exacting knockout artist. At others, he was a reckless slob. Either way, a fighter had to be consistently aggressive to beat him, which isn't something we see from Klitschko, who is miserly with his right hand. A bout with Klitschko would've been similar to Tyson's dull 12-rounder with James "Bonecrusher" Smith, who opted to clinch with Tyson rather than fight. Tyson had a tendency to doze off when opponents were tying him up, but as he did against Smith, Tyson would damage Klitschko enough on the inside to impress the judges. The result might be different if we were discussing the later period Tyson, the one who struggled and ran out of gas against Kevin McBride. But that's not the Tyson people think about when matching him in dream bouts. The vintage Tyson, the firebrand who threw hooks and uppercuts like he was hoping to tear a man's head off, would have intimidated Klitschko into freezing up. Klitschko is at his best when he is certain the coast is clear. Where Tyson was concerned, an overly cautious fighter like Klitchko wasn't going to have much success.

VERDICT: TYSON, DECISION

LENNOX LEWIS

Lewis was nearly Klitschko's size, and like Klitschko, he liked to break an opponent down before putting him away. There are other similarities — both are cerebral fighters, both like working behind a jab to set up their right hand and both hired Emanuel Steward after suffering knockout losses. Lewis' losses came when he underestimated an opponent and was caught napping. But Lewis would be ready for Klitschko. He would test Klitschko in a chess match for a few rounds before turning up the aggression and finally answering the question of how many pile-driving right hands it takes to topple a giant Ukrainian.

VERDICT: LEWIS, KO 10

* * *

Our panel's general consensus, with slight variations, was that Klitschko's size might bother the old-timers, but his methodical style might not be enough to win. The panel wasn't unanimous regarding Marciano, Frazier, and Tyson. Some thought Klitschko would stop them. Some wouldn't choose. Chargin, who has promoted boxing since 1951, insisted the fighters of previous eras had too much fire inside them. Still, Chargin felt Klitschko "belongs right in there" with yesterday's great heavyweights. Farhood concurred.

"To dismiss him because of the era he fights in is foolish and short-sighted," said Farhood, who felt Klitschko would lose to Ali, Holmes, Foreman and Lewis but knock out many of the smaller champions of the past.

Atlas, though, isn't climbing into any time machine with Klitschko.

"I don't care how big he is," Atlas said. "I don't think he would have done particularly well in any era. He's a weak guy mentally. He falls apart. He doesn't take risks. The great fighters of previous eras wouldn't allow him to get away with the things he gets away with today. He pulls straight back, he flaps his jab around; he is practically asking to be knocked out. He gets away with this behavior because today's heavyweights don't have the character necessary to win.

"For whatever reason, today's heavyweights do not put the pedal to the metal. But the best fighters of previous eras would take advantage of Klitschko's weaknesses. I know a lot of people disagree with me, but a lot of people are morons."

Klitschko might never convince everybody, although time has a way of changing our perceptions of a fighter. For instance, Lewis' stature has grown since his retirement. Merchant believes Klitschko's might, too. But despite approving of Klitschko, Merchant hesitated to daydream with us.

"I don't know. I'm just not good at it," Merchant said. "There's no way to compare. People used to write these same articles about Tyson. But Tyson lost big fights in his own era. How could we match him against the best of another era and expect great things? People use the argument that fighters from the past are too small, but if Jack Dempsey were around now, maybe he would have a different look and weigh 220. My general feeling is that great fighters from the past would be great now, and vice versa."

Then is Klitschko great?

"I am parsimonious when it comes to calling someone great," Merchant said. "But someone who is dominant for a long time deserves high marks. There are different standards of greatness. Some fighters are great for a short, explosive time, and others may earn our admiration over an extended period. Klitschko is a phenomenon that hasn't been known in the history of the sport. Maybe he doesn't provide us with classic melodrama, but to be considered the best in your time is high praise; greatness is another story."

Klitschko's significance will always be the subject of debate, but his not faring well in our fantasy mission is not a comment on his abilities. It is just proof, once again, that no opponent is as hard-hitting or irrepressible as someone else's version of "the good old days." ■

Wladimir Klitschko has become a star in Europe. Is there still time for him to become one in the U.S.? Image: **Fabrice Coffrini-AFP-Getty Images**

'WE CAN'T IGNORE THE KLITSCHKOS'

TV OUTLETS IN THE U.S. HAVEN'T EMBRACED THE BIG UKRAINIANS BUT HBO KEEPS THE DOOR OPEN

By **Bernard Fernandez**

The pleasant but unseasonably cool temperatures that gave the East Coast a feel of autumn in early September might have caused some residents to believe that it really was time to stop thinking about sandy beaches, splashing around in the surf, grilling hamburgers on the patio and other ways of having fun in the sun.

But the folks at HBO Sports, whose former president, Ross Greenburg, famously announced a few years ago that his company had "stopped playing in the heavyweight sandbox" because the title-belt-hoarding Klitschko brothers were too dull, too dominant and their designated victims too noncompetitive, apparently are eager to take their pails and shovels back to where the big kids play.

Well, at least two very big siblings from Ukraine whose presence again must be acknowledged on this side of the Atlantic Ocean.

UP NEXT

WHO: WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO VS. MARIUSZ WACH
WHEN: NOV. 10
WHERE: HAMBURG, GERMANY
TV: EPIX IN U.S.

HBO did a delayed, same-day telecast of WBC champion Vitali Klitschko's fourth-round stoppage of a badly bleeding Manuel Charr in Moscow, part of a tripleheader on Sept. 8 that also included Antonio DeMarco's one-round blowout of John Molina Jr. and RING Champion Andre Ward's 10th-round technical knockout of Chad Dawson, both in Oakland, Calif.

The fact that HBO will not televise the Nov. 10 defense by Wladimir Klitschko (58-3, 51 KOs) of his RING Championship and three alphabet belts against Polish challenger Mariusz "The Viking" Wach (27-0, 15 KOs) in Hamburg, Germany, is not an indication that Kery Davis' vow that HBO is "not out of that sandbox" somehow rings hollow.

"We don't want to ignore the Klitschkos," stressed Davis, a senior vice president of HBO Sports. "We can't ignore the Klitschkos. If one of their fights fits our schedule, i.e. Vitali-Charr, we'll do it. Ken [Hershman, HBO Sports' new president and the former boxing boss at Showtime] is of the opinion that we're going to look at what works for us, and that includes the heavyweights. We had discussed doing a Wladimir fight in America this fall and had an offer on the table, but for whatever reason it couldn't happen.

"But our philosophy going forward concerning the heavyweights is that if there's a good fight out there, and it works with our scheduling, we'll do it."

Scheduling is always going to be something of a problem. The Klitschkos fight almost exclusively in Europe these days, primarily in Germany, and there is that pesky time difference between the continents. The Klitschkos fill soccer stadiums and the largest indoor arenas in Europe and Russia,

so there is no economic imperative for them to stage their bouts with a 3 a.m. local starting time as a nod toward American TV. The Klitschkos now are the dog that wags the tail, not the other way around.

If the signals of the more respectful way U.S. TV executives and American fans again view the Klitschkos weren't clear enough, consider the two-hour documentary, *Klitschko*, which debuted on HBO on Sept. 8 and was shown 11 other times on HBO or HBO2 through Sept. 27. It is inconceivable that Hershman and the other suits at HBO would grant such exposure to fighters whose European sandbox was still considered a slum zone.

But, from a financial standpoint, it is increasingly evident that HBO and the American public are going to have to go to the Klitschkos to get their heavyweight fix, not the other way around.

"I am a resident of the States [Miami]," Wladimir said. "I have my home in the States. But I remember Vitali's fight at the Staples Center, against Chris Arreola (on Sept. 26, 2009). Chris was undefeated, he was from Los Angeles. There are a lot of Mexicans and Mexican-Americans who live there. But we were pretty much stuck with an empty arena we were trying to fill in the last days. From the business side, we were not doing well. It was really upsetting because Chris was local and we were thinking he would attract a big crowd.

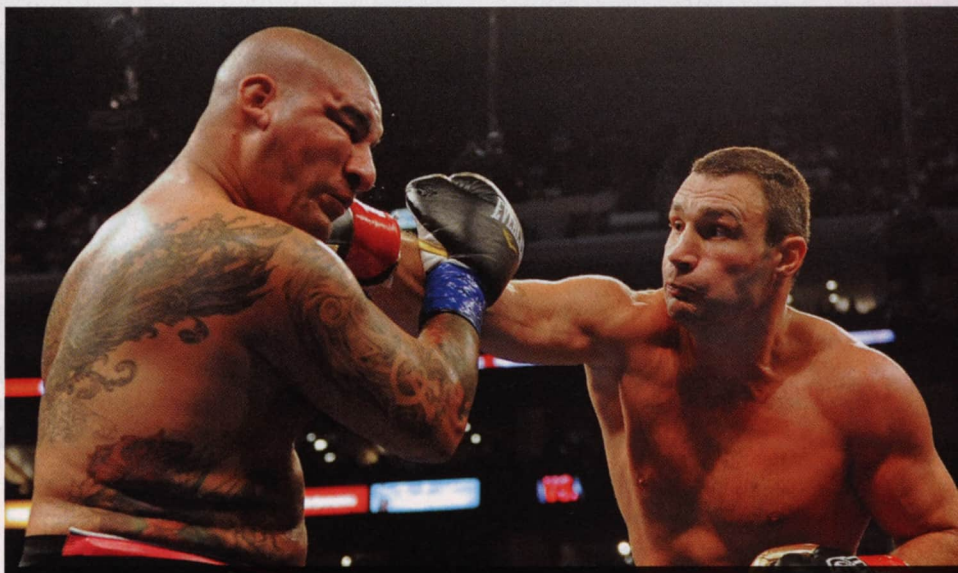
"So we decided after that to fight mainly in Europe because we have

Wladimir Klitschko fills venues in Europe in spite of one lopsided fight after another, including this one against **Tony Thompson** in July. Image: **Lars Baron-Bongarts-Getty Images**

several years now, and the chasm doesn't appear likely to narrow moving forward. The only thing that might halt Vitali is the fact he's 41, has political ambitions in his homeland (he's running for a seat in the parliament on Oct. 28) and must consider a lengthening list of sore and aching body parts he might not want to expose to further damage. Retirement from the ring could come sooner rather than later. It is not entirely possible, however, that Wladimir, 36, who always has been viewed as the more purely talented of the brothers, could rule the division for the remainder of the decade.

Celebrated trainer Emanuel Steward, who has been with Wladimir since 2003, when he replaced a rotating cast of chief seconds that included Fritz Sdunek (who still trains Vitali), Freddie Roach and Don Turner, said he wonders whether the average fight fan in the United States is aware of just how superb, for historical purposes, his fighter is.

"For one-punch power, Wladimir tops them all," Steward said before the younger Klitschko's second matchup with another KO artist, Samuel Peter, which ended on a 10th-round stoppage in 2010. "If he ever became more aggressive and just went after people, he could be



Vitali Klitschko (right) and **Chris Arreola** couldn't draw a sell-out crowd at Staples Center even though Arreola is from the L.A. area, one reason the Klitschkos decided to fight primarily in Europe. Image: **Mark Ralston-AFP-Getty Images**

fans there that are willing to sit in the very last row of a sold-out soccer stadium. They can't really see, but they just want to be attached to the event. We make it theater, with a fireworks show and a lot of high-tech things in the promotion."

A glitzy boxing event, however, isn't the same as a great fight with compelling, two-way action. It isn't the Klitschkos' fault that the gap between themselves and their available opponents is Grand Canyonesque. It has been that way for

"I was fighting alone before Vitali came back (from a retirement that lasted from December 2004 to October 2008)," said Wladimir, the 1996 Olympic super heavyweight gold medalist. "It's great for us to be champions at the same time because every win for Vitali is my win as well, and he feels as I do. I would feel really lonely if it was just me boxing, to be honest with you. But I have to do what I have to do. There is much more that I want to do, and I expect to do before I am finished."

the most devastating heavyweight puncher ever."

The most devastating heavyweight puncher *ever*? More so than George Foreman? Mike Tyson? Joe Louis? Rocky Marciano? Sonny Liston? Earnie Shavers?

"I've trained many fighters [including, it should be noted, big-bopping former heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis] and Wladimir is one of the few who can turn off the lights without using the dimmer switch first," Steward said.

Wladimir Klitschko's last fight in the U.S. was a unanimous-decision victory over **Sultan Ibragimov** on Feb. 23, 2008, at Madison Square Garden in New York City. He has had eight fights since, each in Europe. **Image: Chris Trotman-Bongarts-Getty Images**

Statistics, of course, can be twisted into whatever shape suits a particular person's preference, but the knockout percentages of Wladimir and Vitali are among the best ever compiled by any heavyweight champion. Vitali has taken out 43 of his 49 opponents inside the distance, a percentage of 87.2 percent, second only to the 87.8 percent (43 of 49) registered by Rocky Marciano. Wladimir is fourth on the list at 83.6 percent (51 of 61), just behind Foreman (84.0, 68 of 81) and ahead of Mike Tyson (75.9, 44 of 58).

But it is the dearth of recognizable names on the list of opponents who failed to make it to the final bell against the Klitschkos that has served to diminish their legacy, at least in the U.S. Oh, sure, Vitali did swap punches with Lennox Lewis and was even leading on the scorecards, but he sustained cuts around the eyes severe enough for referee Lou Moret to stop that bout in the sixth round in 2003 at Staples Center. Lewis never fought again, so Vitali never got a chance to demonstrate he was as much in Double L's league as he appeared to be that night.

The closest Wladimir got to sharing the ring with Lewis was a scene they shared in the 2001 movie *Ocean's Eleven*. He is still waiting to be paired with someone capable of truly testing him. One of the reasons Muhammad Ali is so revered today is because "The Greatest" was fortunate enough to have mixed it up with the best (Liston, Foreman, Shavers, Joe Frazier, Ken Norton) in a talent-rich era of heavyweight boxing.

Asked whether Wladimir's possible recognition as one of the finest heavyweights ever has been compromised by a succession of marginal victims, Steward said, "It has, tremendously. He's heading toward all kinds of records, but to get the worldwide attention he needs , you know, some `signature' fights. And I really don't see a super fight out there for him, at least not any time soon."

Even the great Joe Louis had his so-called "Bum of the Month Club," blowing through such presumably no-chance challengers as John Henry Lewis, Arturo Goday,

Gus Dorazio, Buddy Baer, Abe Simon, Al McCoy, Tony Musto, Tony Galento and Clarence "Red" Burman. But the Brown Bomber also had that socially significant one-round knockout of former conqueror Max Schmeling in their 1938 rematch in Yankee Stadium, as well as other victories against highly regarded opponents.

There are no corresponding golden nuggets to be panned from the iron pyrite specimens on Wladimir's resume that include Tony Thompson, Jean-Marc Mormeck, Eddie Chambers, Ray Austin, Calvin Brock, Jameel McCline, Charles Shufford and Derrick Jefferson.

"You know, it's weird," Steward said. "You only need five or so of those `signature' fights that everybody remembers. To become a legend, you don't need to fight one of those kind of guys every time out. We thought we were going to get one of them when we fought David Haye, but ..."

Haye, then the WBA heavyweight champion, was supposed to be the litmus test that would conclusively demonstrate, one way or the other, whether Wladimir had the stuff that would make him worthy to walk among the titans. Except that Haye was outboxed to a fare-thee-well in dropping a 12-round, unanimous decision to Wlad last summer in Hamburg, a relatively pedestrian affair that seemingly served more to expose Haye than to elevate the victor.

"I'm pretty frustrated that we still have no opponents, especially for pay-per-view, in the States," Wladimir said. "There are a lot of American heavyweights, but none that are really marketable. Maybe Seth Mitchell, eventually.

"I believe that if David Haye was not from Great Britain, but from the United States, we would have been able to do an exciting pay-per-view promotion in the U.S. I hope that can happen someday. I would love to come back to the States to fight. That's my desire."

Next in line for **Wladimir Klitschko** (left) is **Mariusz Wach** on Nov. 10 in Hamburg, Germany. Image: **Stuart Franklin-Bongarts-Getty Images**

For all the interest the new regime at HBO appears to have in the Klitschkos of late, it remains to be seen whether those hard-to-sway American fans can be won over as much as have their counterparts in Germany, Russia and other foreign locales.

Perhaps the 32-year-old Wach, who at 6 foot, 7½ inches and 248 pounds is the first of Wlad's opponents who is taller, heavier and has a longer reach, will extend him to a point that he hasn't had to go to in quite a while.

"My fellow countrymen (Tomasz) Adamek and (Albert) Sosnowski did not have what it takes to beat a Klitschko," said Wach, referring to the fact that Adamek and Sosnowski lost to Vitali. "I am not a former cruiserweight, but a real heavyweight. (Wladimir) will take a lot of hard punches before I knock him out."

A lot of fighters have talked a lot of smack since the Klitschkos scrubbed clean most of the taint of their past failures, which called into question their stamina, heart and sturdiness of their chins. Both of Vitali's defeats have come before the final bell, as have all three of Wladimir's. Two of Wlad's losses, to Corrie Sanders and in his first matchup to Lamon Brewster, came within a four-bout, 13-month stretch from March 2003 to April 2004, severely damaging his credibility among American fans as a regal successor to the likes of Lewis, Tyson, Evander Holyfield and Riddick Bowe.

Interestingly, "Dr. Steelhammer's" first bout with Brewster was his first with Steward as his corner chief.

"The toughest time for me was after the Lamon Brewster fight," Wladimir said. "Everyone turned their backs on me. They thought it was all over for me; even my brother thought that. He told me I should retire. But I always believed in myself. I listened to my heart. I had a gut feeling telling me, `This is not you. You have to get back. You are not a loser. You are a champion.'

"The Wladimir Klitschko of today, 2012, is a m-----f-----. The more time that goes by, I am getting better — not just physically, but also my mentality. My mind is as strong as it could be." ■

BEAST!

GENNADY GOLOVKIN IS POISED TO TAKE AMERICA BY STORM

By **Norm Frauenheim**

KNOCKOUT KINGS

The 10 RING-rated fighters with the highest knockout percentage (knockouts to total fights):

1.	Lucas Matthysse	88.2
2T.	**GENNADY GOLOVKIN**	**87.5**
2T.	Hugo Ruiz	87.5
4.	Vitali Klitschko	87.2
5.	Mikey Garcia	86.2
6.	David Haye	85.7
7.	Juan Manuel Lopez	84.8
8T.	Roman Gonzalez	84.4
8T.	James Kirkland	84.4
10.	Carlos Cuadras	84.0

NOTE: Matthysse has one no-contest, which wasn't included for the purposes of this chart.

The best-kept secret in boxing isn't one anymore, other than perhaps the GGG at the top of the trunks. No, the tailor wasn't stuttering when that triple-G was stitched on to the belt line. Those are the initials for middleweight Gennady Gennadyevich Golovkin.

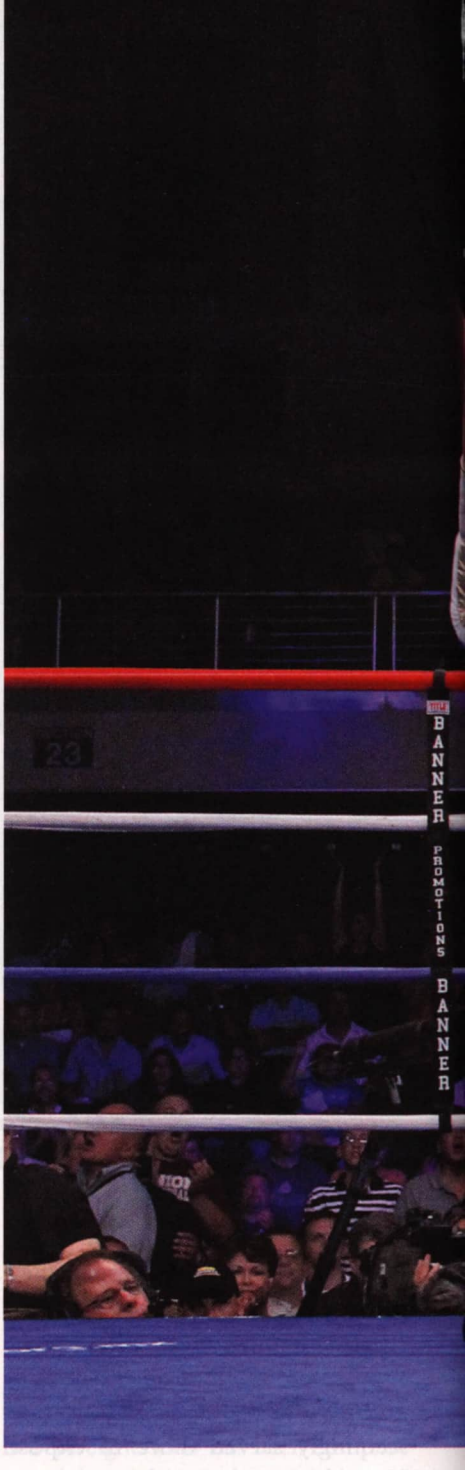
Only the middle G remains obscure, although it could take on new meaning in an acronym that stands for Gennady Going Global. Golovkin's stunning fifth-round stoppage of Grzegorz Proksa on Sept. 1 at Verona, N.Y., was more than a memorable introduction to the United States and Home Box Office. It turned hype into real potential for a middleweight still unbeaten and no longer unknown.

"It has always been our position that Gennady is the best middleweight in the world," Tom Loeffler of K2 Promotions said.

Loeffler and Golovkin trainer Abel Sanchez made that claim before Proksa, a Russian contender, hit the canvas three times. Loeffler repeated it after Sergio Martinez re-asserted his 160-pound reign on Sept. 15 with dominance over 11 rounds and guts in an epic 12th for a dramatic decision over Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. Few contest the claim, even after the classic that earned Martinez the lion's share of acclaim and added to his name recognition.

But Golovkin has momentum and, above all, a place in the debate about what has become boxing's hottest division. He also has the benefit of being new in a business weary of talk about Manny Pacquiao and Floyd Mayweather Jr. A fourth Pacquiao-Juan Manuel Marquez fight has a retread feel to it. A third rematch is fair and even offers a chance to settle an unresolved rivalry. But it's hard to suppress the yawns. We've seen it. Luckily, we've just begun to see Golovkin.

How Golovkin arrived at this juncture of opportunity begins in a remote corner of the world. Kazakhstan is a country that most people couldn't find on a map if asked. What Americans know about Kazakhstan comes from the controversial film *Borat*, a so-called mockumentary.



Golovkin's journey is far from the familiar American route from barrio and ghetto to ring fame and fortune.

"The American style is different, more technical," says Golovkin, the son of a Korean mom and a Russian dad who worked as coal miner in Karaganda, a Kazakstani city of nearly 500,000. "In Kazakhstan, we train hard, very hard."

So hard that some of the stories are, well, hard to believe. Former

Gennady Golovkin's knockout of capable **Grzegorz Proksa** in his U.S. debut caught everyone's attention. Image: **Sumio Yamada-K2 Promotions**

cruiserweight champion Vassiliy Jirov, the first Kazakstani boxer to fight in the U.S., recalls Olympic coach Alexander Apachinsky. Apachinsky would put Jirov in a narrow hall with an angry German shepherd. In an apparent attempt to improve his foot speed, Apachinsky told Jirov to fight his way out of the hall, which he did, but not without some nasty encounters with the dog. Scars on Jirov's wrists and forearms are the proof.

"I think I'd rather take my chances with that chicken in the Rocky movie," Loeffler jokes.

Apocryphal or not, the story about the bizarre training method provides a glimpse at what forged Golovkin into the fearless, physical fighter we saw against Proska. It also hints at cultural differences that have confronted him in his attempt to fulfill an American dream that, for the most part, eluded Jirov, a gold medalist at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. Pursuit of dollars can be complicated enough to make just about anybody homesick for the sight of a snarling dog.

For Golovkin, there is no ready-made guide — no GPS telling him where to go, what to say and who to say it to. But there is innate power, a ring style that looks almost effortless, toughness, poise, some good timing and patience.

To say that **Gennady Golovkin** is fierce might be an understatement. Image: **Sumio Yamada-K2 Promotions**

The patience is paramount. Golovkin is 30 years old, an age when most of the best in today's impatient generation have already made their reputations and bank accounts. Golovkin is just getting started, despite a 24-0 record and an astonishing KO ratio that includes 21 stoppages.

There's also a striking amateur resume that includes an Olympic silver medal at the 2004 Athens Games, a 2003 world championship and victories over Andre Dirrell, Andy Lee, Matt Korobov and Lucian Bute. A crushing knockout of Bute is a YouTube favorite that preceded Golovkin's arrival in the U.S. It created the initial expectations.

"There is a mystique about him," Loeffler says.

For a while, however, there was only that mystique. Despite amateur credentials that might have jumpstarted a pro career in the United States, Golovkin languished in Europe after signing with Universum, a German promotional team. Golovkin moved to Stuttgart, where he continues to have a home with his wife and young daughter. He stacked up victories, yet few seemed to notice or care. Frustrated, Golovkin decided to break with Universum in January, 2010, in part because he argued that the promotional team had denied him a chance to fight Felix Sturm and Sebastian Zbik. Both also were under contract to Universum.

"The reason for this decision is that I've always been placed behind Felix Sturm and Sebastian Zbik by Universum," Golovkin told German media. "Our demands to fight against Felix Sturm or Sebastian Zbik have been always rejected on absurd grounds. Universum had no real plan or concept for me. They did not even try to bring my career forward."

Golovkin said he also had been promised bouts against Marco Antonio Rubio and Anthony Mundine.

"But nothing happened," he told German reporters in 2010. "This situation was not acceptable. It was time to move forward."

But there are no quick stoppages in the legal ring. Golovkin continued to win, yet he was as forgotten as he was feared. He fought twice in 2010, both during the second half

of the year. On Aug. 14, he traveled to Panama City and won the World Boxing Association's interim version of the middleweight title with a first-round stoppage of Milton Nunez of Colombia. Four months later on Dec. 16, he went home to Kazakhstan and won the WBA title outright with a third-round stoppage of Nilson Julio Tapia, also of Colombia. But the news didn't travel far from either Panama or Kazakhstan, neither of which are media centers.

All the while, Loeffler watched with a careful eye and some familiarity. K2 is owned by heavyweight champs Wladimir and Vitali Klitschko, brothers who have done most of their fighting in Germany.

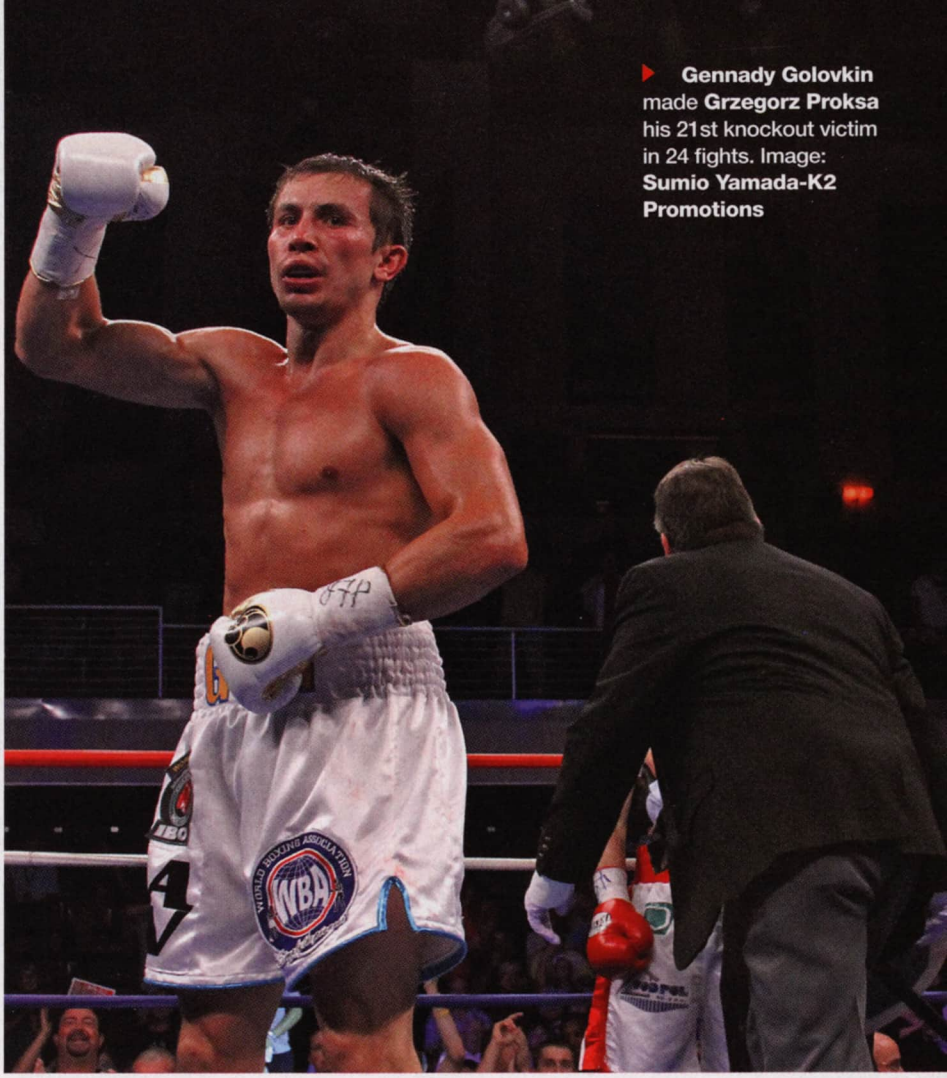
"We had heard about Gennady, knew about him," Loeffler said.

After German courts ruled in favor of Golovkin's break with Universum and a higher court upheld the ruling, K2 signed him in January to a deal that included a promised move to the United States. The first step had already been taken. Golovkin had already moved his training camp to Big Bear, Calif., with Sanchez. It was there that Golovkin's mystique began to grow even more. He sparred with Alfredo Angulo, Antonio Margarito, Canelo Alvarez and Chavez Jr.

By all accounts, he got the best of Chavez Jr. But given the news of Chavez Jr.'s haphazard and cavalier training before scoring a knockdown in the furious final round in his loss by unanimous decision to Martinez, it's prudent not to take much from those sessions. Still, the work in the mountain-top gym east of Los Angeles convinced Sanchez that Golovkin's mystique is more than just a mere tease.

"The best fighter I've ever had," said Sanchez, who has worked the corner for many great ones, including retired middleweight champ Terry Norris.

The proof rests in what happens in the wake of an HBO debut that some have compared to Pacquiao's 2001 upset of junior featherweight Lehlohonolo Ledwaba of South Africa. Golovkin said he wanted to fight the winner of Martinez-Chavez Jr. But that doesn't appear likely at any time in the immediate future.



Gennady Golovkin made **Grzegorz Proksa** his 21st knockout victim in 24 fights. Image: **Sumio Yamada-K2 Promotions**

An injured hand and knee figure to keep Martinez on the shelf until next year. Chavez also sustained a lot of punishment. There also might be some question about whether trainer Freddie Roach will stay in Chavez's corner because of a lazy work ethic that reportedly re-appeared in training for Martinez. Chavez's future was further clouded by news that he tested positive for marijuana. For now, the best guess is that there will be a Martinez-Chavez Jr. rematch sometime next year, perhaps at Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

But don't expect Golovkin to wait around. The plan is for him to fight in December. Dannie Geale in a mandatory, Dmitry Pirog and Peter Quillin appear to be the leading possibilities.

"We need to capitalize on the momentum from the victory over Proksa," Loeffler said.

For now, Golovkin's optimum weight is 160. But he, Sanchez and Loeffler said he would be willing to fight anybody between junior middleweight (154 pounds) and super middleweight (168). That means anyone between Alvarez and Andre Ward.

"Canelo would be the ideal situation, but I don't really foresee that happening for a while," Loeffler said of the redheaded Mexican, who scored a fifth-round stoppage of overmatched and undersized Josesito Lopez on the same night of the Martinez-Chavez drama.

Gennady Golovkin probably will collect many belts in his boxing career. Image: **Sumio Yamada-K2 Promotions**

But like Martinez and Chavez Jr., Canelo doesn't appear to be an immediate possibility. After blowing away Lopez, Canelo threw out a lot of names, including Miguel Cotto and Floyd Mayweather Jr. But Golovkin was not among them. That might not just be an oversight. Canelo, like so many others, has seen enough to know that there's more to Golovkin than that mystique.

Given the difference in size, it also looks as if Ward would be a stretch, although Golovkin spars with bigger fighters, including cruiserweights, because few middleweights can withstand his power. For now, that's his calling card, his identity.

Media and fans have been reaching for parallels to describe Golovkin, whose quirky smile has even led to some cartoon-like comparisons to *Mad* Magazine's Alfred E Neuman. You won't find Neuman on boxrec.com. But you will find Kostya Tszyu and Chavez's legendary dad, Julio Sr. With Asian and Russian parents, Golovkin has a face that reminds you of Tszyu. Under Sanchez's tutelage, he is developing a left hook to the body that makes you think of Chavez Sr.

"We're adding the elements that are good for American TV," Sanchez said. "Terry Norris could be explosive, but he really wasn't that big a puncher. The difference is that Gennady, like Chavez, wears you down with pressure and leaves you vulnerable to that big punch."

Problem is, who's willing to take the risk?

"One or two more fights in the United States, and I think Gennady will become a household name," Loeffler said. "There are no hurdles, certainly not from our side. I think people would want to get paid a lot of money to fight Gennady. I think as his recognition increases in the United States, the budget will increase."

All of which means the GGG might include a $ or three. ■

IceLink

Zermatt
Limited Edition Collection

ICELINKWATCH.COM

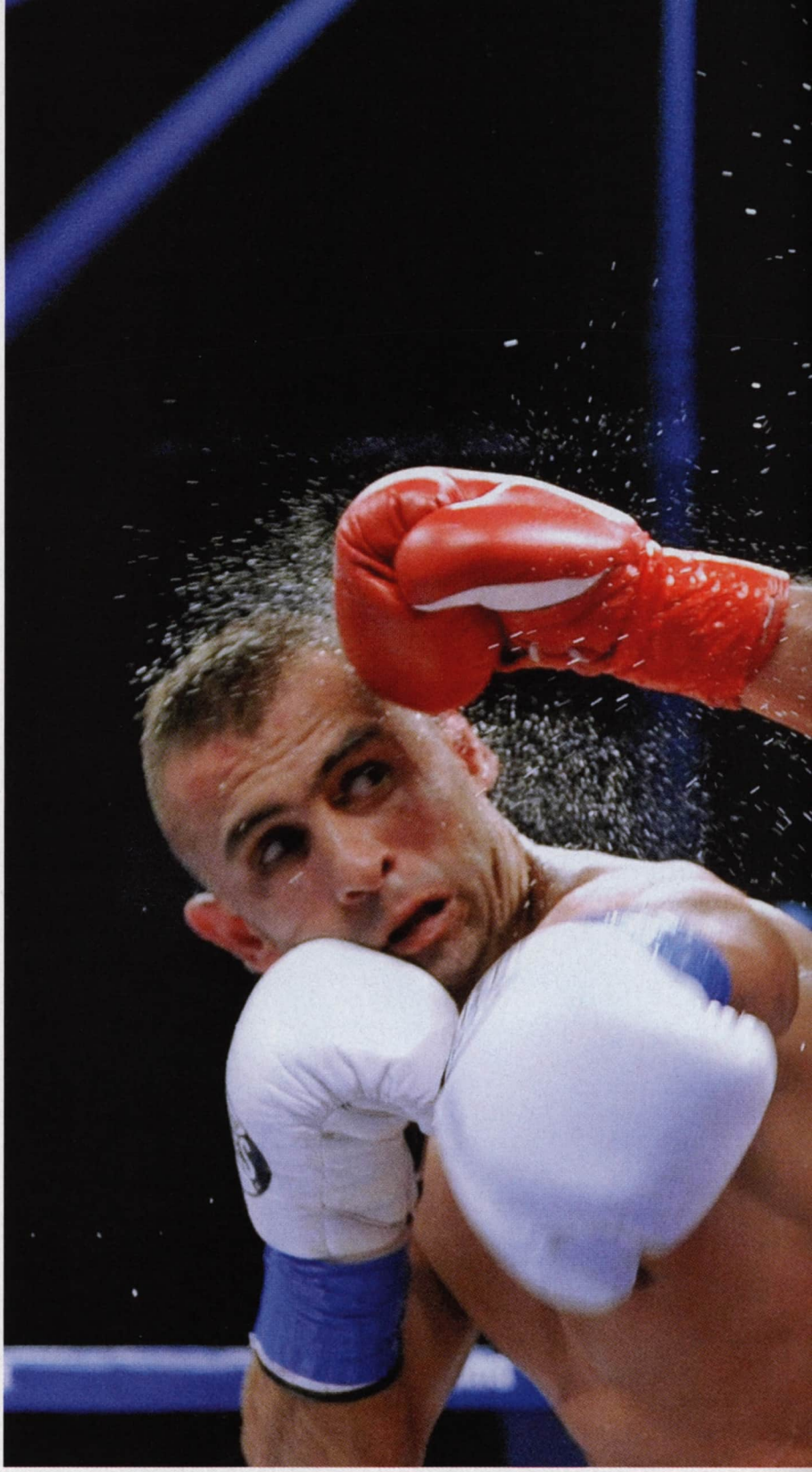
IceLink Flagship Boutique
666 North Kilkea Drive · Los Angeles · California · 323.782.8666

GENEVA / PARIS / SINGAPORE / MOSCOW / HONG KONG / MACAU / BARCELONA
LOS ANGELES / AMSTERDAM / TOKYO / DUBAI / KIEV / NEW YORK

WAITING GAME

ROBERT GUERRERO AGAIN IS READY TO BUST LOOSE BUT MUST BIDE HIS TIME

By **Thomas Gerbasi**



It's waiting time again for Robert Guerrero.

Fresh from surgery for a torn left rotator cuff that sidelined him for over 15 months, he jumped back into the ring on July 28 in San Jose and barely skipped a beat. "The Ghost" won a hard-fought and physical 12-rounder over Selcuk Aydin that earned him the interim WBC welterweight belt, making him the de facto No. 1 challenger for Floyd Mayweather Jr.

Guerrero has now fought in four divisions. And while he's picked up title trinkets of various degrees along the way, from legitimate world titles at featherweight and junior lightweight to a pair of interim belts at 135 and now 147 pounds, the "big" fight has always eluded him. He hopes that will change at welterweight.

"I'm hoping this is home and that the best, pound for pound, want to get in with me," said Guerrero. "I want to sit at 147 for a bit and campaign there, and I hope I don't have to jump up to 154 pounds yet."

He might've been only half-kidding. And when jokingly asked if we may see him at cruiserweight eventually, he deadpans, "If nobody wants to fight, you gotta do what you gotta do, right?"

Then he laughs. But his quest to fight the elite over the last 11 years has been far from a laughing matter. And though he's built a resume that most fighters would envy — beating solid opposition like Spend Abazi, Jason Litzau, Daud Yordan, Joel Casamayor, Vicente Escobedo, Michael Katsidis and Aydin – there isn't a marquee name on his record that could define his career. It's really the only knock on the Gilroy,

Robert Guerrero (right) had no trouble beating tough **Turk Selcuk Aydin** in spite of a long layoff. Image: **Naoki Fukuda**

Calif., native, one that he's heard more than a few times.

"It's frustrating," he said, "and I get that all the time, 'Guerrero hasn't fought a name guy.' But I go back to them: 'How are you gonna fight a name guy if none of these name guys want to step in the ring?' That's the whole reason why I've had to move weight class after weight class. Wouldn't it be easier to just fight at one weight class and win the whole division? I think it's a thousand times tougher to do what I did than to just stay in one weight class like some of these so-called pound-for-pound fighters who have only done things in

one division. And when it comes down to Robert Guerrero, who is right there, would you like to take a fight? People change the subject."

Guerrero (30-1-1, 19 knockouts and two no-contests) does present several issues for anyone looking to step into the ring with him. He's a lanky southpaw with a busy style and enough pop in his fists to make you respect him. But perhaps the most difficult part of fighting Guerrero is dealing with the one thing he has that you can't quantify on paper — his heart.

The story of his wife Casey's battle with leukemia has been well documented, and thankfully after a recent bone marrow transplant all is going well in the Guerrero household. But to get to this point, Guerrero took off nearly a year to care for Casey and their two children, Savannah and Robert Jr. And when he did return, though he kept winning, it was with the cloud of his wife's cancer hanging over his head. He never blinked an eye.

"He'd tell me he was OK, but I'd see the way he looked, and it was real tough," said his father and trainer Ruben Guerrero. "All this boy knows how to do is box, and he never said no, even though I could see it in his eyes and his face. But Robert's real tough, he's got a

Robert Guerrero (right) cruised past always-game but overmatched **Michael Katsidis** in April. He wouldn't fight again for more than 15 months. Image: **Naoki Fukuda**

big heart, and we found a way to get it done. We went through a lot. Nobody knows what Robert went through but me. I saw it in his eyes when we were training, and I tried to inspire him a lot — come on son, it's gonna be OK, don't worry about it — and get everything off his mind.

"But deep inside I knew that he wasn't really there sometimes. Sometimes I wanted to call some fights off, but he's got a lot of heart. He'd go, 'Dad, I gotta fight, I gotta make money for my family.' So we had to push, no matter what."

Yet just when it appeared that Guerrero — the father, husband, and fighter — had turned the corner, he tore his rotator cuff in August of last year, forcing him out of one of the big fights he craved against Argentina's Marcos Maidana. Following surgery, he began the arduous road back.

"You kinda hold back a little bit the first couple of weeks, just testing it out on the bag," said Robert of his first days back in the gym. "So pretty much the first month getting back in the gym and punching with it, you always have in your mind 'OK, this is it right here, I'm gonna let it go.' And you want to get comfortable and break it in and then let the power start going. So it's kinda stressful thinking about it."

He always kept a brave face on, though, and when his 12-round test with Aydin was over, he was finally able to smile. He even impressed one of his new classmates at 147 pounds.

"I thought he was impressive, especially coming off a long layoff, and he showed a lot," said WBA welterweight titleholder Paulie Malignaggi. "Aydin was a dangerous opponent, and I think Guerrero tamed him and made it look easier than it was. I don't think (Aydin) is an easy guy to deal with — he can punch, he's physical, he makes the fight very taxing on you, and Guerrero was really able to apply a game plan and execute it and stay disciplined. So you have to commend him for the job he did."

That doesn't mean anyone is lining up to fight him. So Guerrero did what he's been forced to do consistently over the years — he took his case to the people. He called out the big gun, not only in the welterweight division, but in the sport: Mayweather.

"I'm the mandatory to fight him now," Guerrero said. "At 147 pounds in the WBC I'm the interim world champion. ... That fight could be made and I think it would be a great fight. Styles make fights, and I think I have the style that can beat Floyd Mayweather."

The question is, would Mayweather take it? Guerrero is not yet a marquee name who can get public demand on his side for such a fight,

Robert Guerrero was in a familiar position after his fight against **Selcuk Aydin**: Celebrating a victory. Image: **Tom Hogan-Hoganphotos**

and mandatory or not, this is Mayweather's chess board. He's moving all the pieces. But it might just be a doable fight if the man tied with Manny Pacquiao in second place for pound-for-pound supremacy in THE RING's ratings decides that he wants to fight again either late this year or in early 2013 after a victory over Miguel Cotto in May and a jail stint of about two months on a domestic battery charge.

"The welterweight division is pretty open as far as the guys that are gonna get Mayweather or Pacquiao," said Malignaggi. "I think (Guerrero) has got a realistic shot at (getting) him, just like any other top contender at welterweight has a realistic shot."

But time is running short, and as the end of the year approaches, the silence is almost deafening for Guerrero. Mayweather hasn't revealed anything regarding his future plans, Pacquiao has a Dec. 8 date with Juan Manuel Marquez, Cotto faces Austin Trout on Dec. 1 at 154 pounds, and Malignaggi and IBF champion Randall Bailey are both booked in the fall.

At press time, a Dec. 15 bout with WBO champion and Pacquiao conqueror Timothy Bradley is a possibility should Golden Boy Promotions and Top Rank agree to work together, but until the contracts are signed, Guerrero waits, nearly back where he started from.

"Right now I'm just laying back, spending time with my family, and taking advantage of that," he said in September. "But it gets you anxious to find out who the next opponent is, especially in my case, where not very many people want to get in the ring with you. But I leave it all up to my management and my promotional team, and just sit back and enjoy the family time."

A fight with Bradley would be intriguing. And a Twitter war and face-to-face confrontation with former 130-pound champ Adrien Broner at the Andre Ward-Chad Dawson weigh-in has raised some interest in that possible matchup. But the fight Guerrero truly wants is still against Mayweather, a boxer he believes he would be catching at precisely the right time.

"I could see him slowing down," said Guerrero of Mayweather. "I could see his footwork's not as quick as it used to be, his hand speed's not as quick as it used to be, and his reflexes are not as fast as they used to be. With Cotto, who is more of a slugger and real relaxed in the ring, he did land a lot of good shots that Floyd normally doesn't get hit with. So I see Floyd starting to slow down a lot, and when I see stuff like that, I see a man that's beatable."

But he may not get the chance to pull off the upset. And though Guerrero is confident about the future, he sounds almost resigned to the idea of finding someone else to fight who doesn't currently reside in Las Vegas.

"I threw the challenge out there and we'll see if [Mayweather] takes it," he said. "If he doesn't, I'm just gonna throw him on that list with Marquez, Amir Khan, Juan Diaz, all the guys that I've been challenging over the years."

He's still only 29, a fighter more than eager to fulfill his great potential. Robert Guerrero just needs the right dance partner to do it with.

"I'm always looking at all the fights, and I'm looking at the best," he said. "There are a lot of names out there and potentially great fights ... if the Floyd Mayweather fight doesn't happen ... Being in the driver's seat and having the WBC championship of the world at welterweight, it opens up a lot of doors and that's why I'm so excited to be in the position I'm in. That's what I've always strived for and worked hard for, and now it's time to take full advantage of all the options that are out there." ■

RICKY II

THE RETURN OF RICKY HATTON ELICITS MIXED EMOTIONS

By **Gareth A Davies**

Ricky Hatton was surprisingly trim on Sept. 14, the day he announced his return to the ring. He faces **Vyacheslav Senchenko** on Nov. 24. Image: **Paul Thomas-Getty Images**

There are incongruous and conflicting aspects to *Ricky II*— the comeback of Ricky Hatton. The announcement evoked mixed reactions here in the UK — and for good reason. The facts are stark and do not bode well for him. This is not Rocky II, and it is no Hollywood script. It is real life.

Consider this: When he steps into a ring again, 3½ years will have passed since he was brutally dismantled by Manny Pacquiao in a Las Vegas ring.

Hatton will be 34 when he fights for the 48th time. On this summer's rich list compiled by *The Sunday Times*, only Lennox Lewis is better off in accumulated career wealth, in British terms, as a boxer. Hatton is reputed to have earned 55 million U.S. dollars in his career. The "Undefeated" contest with Floyd Mayweather Jr. earned him almost $20 million alone.

But his power appeared to have faded in his last contest. He looked a punch bag. Furthermore, he doesn't need the money. He doesn't need to fight. Some would argue he shouldn't fight.

Yet he remains extraordinarily popular. With his pugnacious fighting style and repertoire of hilarious one-liners, Hatton captured a tribe of followers. He is still funny, still compelling. While shedding 40 pounds, he asserted he has become so slim, he "almost slipped down a drain".

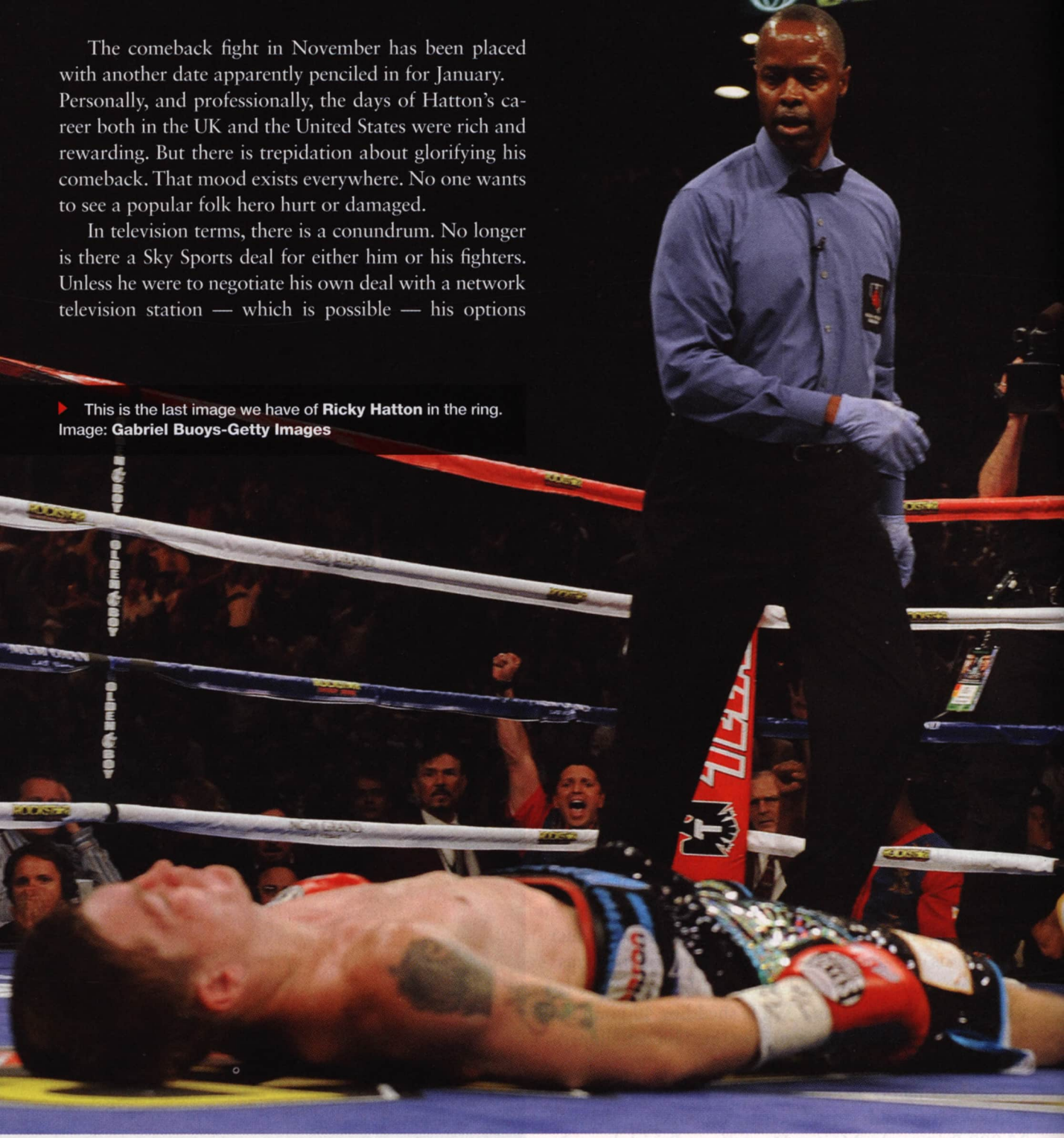
He is arguably Britain's most followed boxing export. When could we envisage again the exodus of 25,000 Brits to the Mojave Desert for a British boxer?

When he announced his scheduled comeback for Nov. 24 at his old hunting grounds of the MEN Arena in Manchester at a news conference on Sept. 14, the 16,000 seats were all but sold in 48 hours. The opponent, who was named two weeks later as former WBA titleholder Vyacheslav Senchenko, hardly mattered.

Yet will we be peering in, atavistically, on a career that ended with a bulldozer from the Philippines laying him out on the canvas, leaving his mother Carol and his partner Jennifer in pieces in the plush seats.

The comeback fight in November has been placed with another date apparently penciled in for January. Personally, and professionally, the days of Hatton's career both in the UK and the United States were rich and rewarding. But there is trepidation about glorifying his comeback. That mood exists everywhere. No one wants to see a popular folk hero hurt or damaged.

In television terms, there is a conundrum. No longer is there a Sky Sports deal for either him or his fighters. Unless he were to negotiate his own deal with a network television station — which is possible — his options



▶ This is the last image we have of **Ricky Hatton** in the ring. Image: **Gabriel Buoys-Getty Images**

would be Primetime, a relatively new pay-per-view channel, or BoxNation, which Frank Warren has shares in. Galvanized by a victory in November, would he be drawn again to the lights of Las Vegas?

There were rumors for weeks over the summer, and pictures to accompany them, that he was in the gym, in shape and in the right frame of mind.

There are already clear-cut opponents out there, moreover. The rematch with Paulie Malignaggi seems to have potency, and with the Brooklynite in retention of a world title belt — incidentally one which Hatton once held — he seems to be a potentially perfect opponent.

What is clear is that no British boxer has filled the vacuum left by his departure. Amir Khan rose and then fell in the last 12 months but culturally could never capture the blue collar hordes that once drank Las Vegas dry.

Khan is a possible opponent, of course. So too, improbably as it may sound from this distance, is Oscar De La Hoya. As wild as that last punt may sound, it

would sell as an event. Both men have been through personal crises in the last two years, and the script would appear to be there for the writers. I wouldn't mind wagering that it would draw a vast crowd. Never say never.

His record still stands up as outstanding at 45 wins and two defeats. Those two losses to Mayweather and Pacquiao notwithstanding, it was a formidable record, the highlights being the victories over Kostya Tszyu, Jose Luis Castillo and Malignaggi.

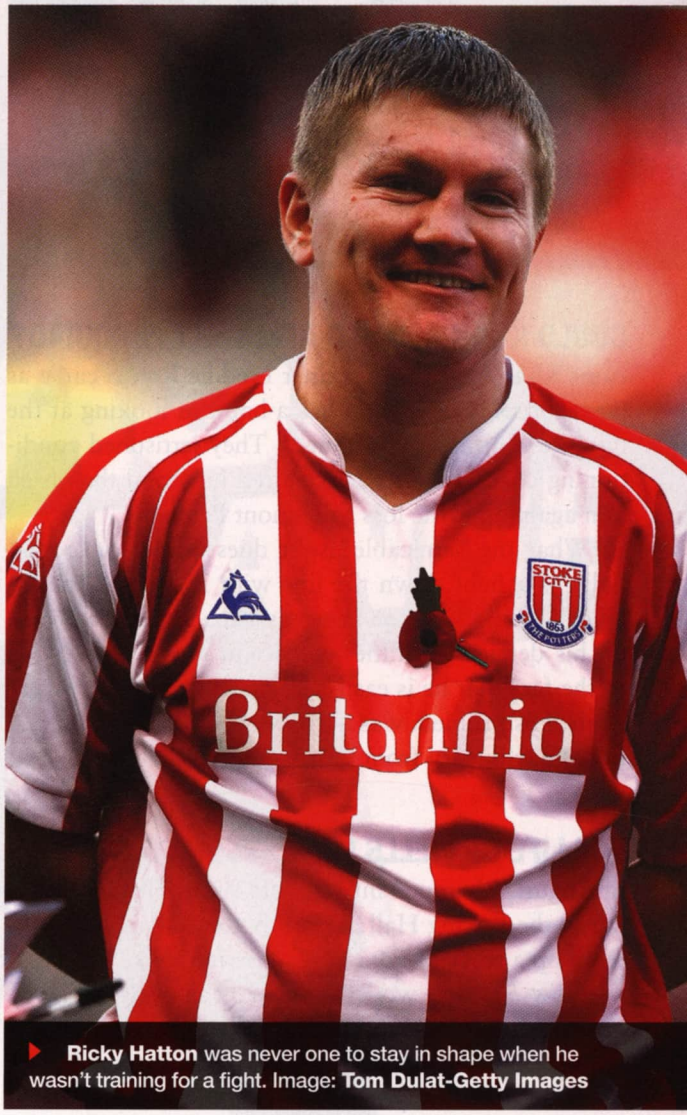
His PR team told us that the former two-weight world champion had been in strict training over several months and was "within just a few pounds of the fighting weight required" for his comeback bout.

He said the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games had been the "huge inspiration" behind his return to the ring. Yet we had heard it earlier in the year, and then, after a trip to a Spanish holiday resort on a bachelor weekend, the comeback was off again.

The summer of sport gave him "the itch" and the British Boxing Board of Control was satisfied that he could present himself again for a license to box.

The worrying factors are that he suffered depression, admitted he had contemplated suicide and had ballooned in weight, finding himself on the front pages of the weekend tabloids indulging himself.

It is so easy to sympathize with Hatton because he is so likeable. It may be painful viewing. Will the reflexes and speed still be there? History has told us so many times that fighters never come back better. Only older and slower.



Ricky Hatton was never one to stay in shape when he wasn't training for a fight. Image: **Tom Dulat-Getty Images**

Columnist **Gareth A Davies** (left) is pictured with **Robert Wells,** a former Olympic medalist who is an inspiration to many because of what he has overcome.

COULD KHAN REBUILD AND MEET PACQUIAO?

Amir Khan's split with trainer Freddie Roach came as no surprise. Khan's team has a habit of looking at the mistakes and making changes. They jettisoned conditioning coach Alex Ariza, re-hired him, and then fired him again after the loss to Lamont Peterson.

What the "amicable" split does allow for, potentially, is a fight down the line with Manny Pacquiao. Khan's advisers reckon he needs a coach who can work on his defensive frailties, yet Khan seems impervious to the fact that he is easily drawn into a war by opponents. His problem was not Roach, but himself. Hopefully he will learn from the loss to Danny Garcia.

THE LIFE OF WELLS IS A LESSON TO US ALL

In August, I bumped into Robert Wells. He was working in the Boxing Hall at the London Olympics. It offered up a story of boxing's highs and lows.

Now 51, Bob won the super heavyweight bronze medal at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles. Fascinating man, indeed, and one who has turned his life around dramatically.

Wells, who boxed out of Kingston ABC, turned professional two years after the Games but had little success. His paid career ended in 1989, with the paltry record of 3-2-0. He is the son of former boxer Billy Wells, who competed at the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City. I believe they are the only father and son to box for Britain at the Olympic Games.

The younger Wells was 23 when he competed in the debut of the super heavyweight division in the Olympics. He had won the 1984 English Amateur Boxing Association title, beating the likes of Gary Mason.

At the Los Angeles Games, Wells was defeated at the semi-final stage by Francesco Damiani, who went on to become the first holder of the WBO heavyweight crown.

Wells explained to me what had happened in his life. After an unsuccessful heavyweight career, he had started his own window cleaning business, yet being unable to read or write, he had to have assistance in his accounting.

For 20 years, he worked hard. He was successful. He had a family and a large house in the affluent area of Surrey, west of London, and had aimed to retire in order to teach amateur boxing full time. But a tragic chain of events was to change his life forever.

In 2003, he was struck on the back of the head by the mirror of a passing bus and suffered severe head and spinal injuries. It led to a long bout of depression.

It was saddening to hear his story: "For four months I never got out of bed. I never knew what day it was. I really did lose my mind." Then, when he did eventually get back to work, he was diagnosed with blood poisoning and later with MRSA (bacterial infection).

Registered disabled, he suffered from both depression and alcoholism. He lost his home, and his family.

Wells then lost his father, who committed suicide by hanging himself. And it was Wells who found the body. The shock changed his life.

"It shook me out of the state I was in," he said. Soon afterward, in spite of suffering from dyslexia, he enrolled in an adult learning center, and gained qualifications in numeracy, literacy and computing.

He has become an inspirational man in the last five years, and even gives readings of his short stories. He also now works with disabled people. "I find it so rewarding," he explained.

At first, he had been turned down as a volunteer at the Olympic Games. That changed, thankfully, and he took his place as a very popular and much appreciated member with the volunteers at the Boxing Hall. ■

Gareth A Davies is Boxing Correspondent for *The Telegraph*, London.

ANDRE WARD BOXING CHAMPION
EVERLAST HAS BEEN A PROUD
SUPPORTER OF BCRF SINCE 2006
EVERLAST
The Breast Cancer Research Foundation
UNLEASH YOURS
AT EVERLAST.COM
UNLEASH
CHANGE
©2012 EVERLAST WORLDWIDE ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

NO RUSH

OLYMPIC SUPER HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION ANTHONY JOSHUA REMAINS AMATEUR AS HE CONSIDERS ALL OPTIONS

By **Gavin Evans**

Anthony Joshua is being groomed for superstardom. The big Brit who squeaked home with super heavyweight gold in London already has a sports agency minding his back, and the offers from the big promoters are rolling in.

The attraction is that, despite the disputed nature of two of his Olympic wins, he has immense potential — and he most certainly looks the part. If you were to design a world heavyweight champion, this big-hitting young Londoner would form the prototype: a lean, muscular, extremely athletic 6-foot-6, 230-plus pounder with an 84-inch reach. He also comes across as friendly and articulate, and he has a pleasant face and pleasing manner.

But it seems that Joshua, who turned 23 on Oct. 15, will keep the promotional bloodhounds waiting, perhaps even following the path set by Lennox Lewis, who refused offers to turn professional following the 1984 Olympics and stayed amateur until winning gold four years later.

One attraction is that there are more lucrative options for amateurs nowadays, including AIBA's semi-pro World Series of Boxing allowing salaried "amateurs" to compete in five-round bouts without headgear, and the proposed AIBA Professional Boxing, which will allow AIBA-contracted professionals to fight in World and Olympic tournaments.

Joshua has yet to sign any contracts, but he made it clear to THE RING that he'll stay within the AIBA fold at least until the 2013 World Championships.

"I've made my decision to remain in amateur boxing for at least another year, representing Great Britain," he said.

What was clear from watching Joshua in London was that he had the raw material of a tasty heavyweight: well-balanced, heavy-handed, with sharp reflexes, good footwork, a solid chin and plenty of grit. But he seldom throws combinations, sometimes neglects his jab and could use more head movement.

When you compare his four years and 40-3 tally to the amateur records of the super heavyweight Olympic champions since Lewis, you see the reason for those raw edges: Roberto Cammarelle (185-25); Alexander Povetkin (125-7); Wladimir Klitschko (134-6); Roberto Balado (122-9); Lewis (94-11). Only Audley Harrison had fewer than 100 fights (and his 54 were spread out over 10 years).

Lewis and Harrison certainly had more emphatic routes to gold, but they both believe that Joshua's potential is immense.

"I rate him a lot," Harrison said. "He's young and hasn't got a lot of experience, but what he has is tre-

BIG EXPECTATIONS

Anthony Joshua is the eighth Olympic super heavyweight champion. Here are the previous seven and how they did as professionals:

YEAR	NAME	RECORD	MAJOR TITLES
1984	Tyrell Biggs	30-10 (20 KOs)	None
1988	Lennox Lewis	41-2-1 (32 KOs)	Seven
1992	Roberto Balado	–	
1996	Wladimir Klitschko	58-3 (51 KOs)	Five
2000	Audley Harrison	28-5 (21 KOs)	None
2004	Alexander Povetkin	24-0 (16 KOs)	None
2008	Roberto Cammarelle	–	

NOTE: Balado, who died in a car accident in 1994, never fought professionally. Cammarelle remained amateur and won a silver medal in 2012. Major titles include RING, WBC, WBA, IBF and WBO.

Olympic gold medalist **Anthony Joshua** would appear to have a big future but is in no hurry. Image: **Scott Heavey-Getty Images**

Anthony Joshua (left) had to overcome 2008 gold medalist **Roberto Cammarelle** to win the Olympic title this year. Image: **Scott Heavey-Getty Images**

mendous natural ability." To which Lewis added: "Anthony has a lot of raw talent. He's strong with a great physique and great power, and he has the drive to be successful. Now all those things need to be harnessed to make him a more complete fighter."

Joshua was born in Watford, a town on the outskirts of London, into a working-class family of Nigerian origin. "They were very hard working, so I never went without," he said.

He was a popular, friendly lad who seldom got into tussles; a "peaceful person," he insists. Instead, his prime childhood pre-occupation was sports. "My 100-meter record at my old school still stands today, 11.6 seconds, but I really enjoyed all sports, particularly football (soccer), running and rugby."

An older cousin, Ben Ileyemi, was an amateur heavyweight, and Anthony liked to watch him.

"I was a bored 18-year-old, and I had time and energy to spare, so I started going to the Finchley Amateur Boxing Club to see him, and instead of just watching, I decided to train alongside him," Joshua said. "When I told him, he didn't want me to turn up in trainers so he took me down to Sports Direct, lent me £25 ($40) for a pair of Lonsdale boots, lent me some boxing shorts, and I just cracked on from there."

Joshua was fortunate to have found a gym with six good big men, none of whom gave the teenager an easy time. "My first memory there is of getting beat up, and I just remember thinking, 'This is tough. This is hard.' But I also remember that 10 spars down the line it was a different story because by then I was already starting to land better shots than I was getting hit with. I could see the improvement and that kept me going."

He drifted away for a while before being coaxed back by his coach, Sean Murphy, after which he knuckled down. His first loss came against Dillian Whyte, a former kickboxer (now an 8-0 professional), who dropped him in the second round and went on to win on points, but Joshua's size and athleticism were too much for most.

After two years and 18 fights, Joshua won his first national amateur title and received a £50,000 ($82,000) offer to turn professional. "It was quite easy to turn it down and stay away from the money because I could see the benefit of sticking around and learning my trade. I thought, 'You know what, I'm going to follow my dreams to become an Olympian.'"

Soon after, however, a self-induced setback threatened to derail his dreams. Anthony was arrested for possessing cannabis with the intention to supply. He

pleaded guilty and was sentenced to a year of probation and 100 hours of unpaid work. At the time, he was going clubbing regularly and hanging out with the wrong people, but the embarrassment and the danger it presented to his ambitions prompted a lifestyle change: He trained significantly harder, left his dodgy friends behind and stayed away from the clubbing scene.

The amateur boxing authorities gave him a second chance, and he won a second national amateur title and then took his place as Britain's super heavyweight representative last year at the World Championships in Baku, Azerbaijan.

In his second bout, he used his superior speed and footwork to defeat Olympic champion Cammarelle 15-13. He went on to face local hero Magomedrasul Medzhidov in the finals and lost 22-21, with several ringsiders noting that if the bout was held anywhere else, Joshua would have won.

He has no complaints, however. "All credit to Medzhidov, who put up a great fight. I let the judges make the decisions, and I moved on from there because I knew I had to go to the bigger arena and to show further improvement."

By then, Joshua, who lived in a two-bedroom council flat in North London, was a full-time boxer, courtesy of $15 million in government funding for the British ABA through the National Lottery, which also enabled boxing officials to hire the best coaches at the English Institute of Sport in Sheffield, headed by Rob McCracken (who also trains Carl Froch).

"I had a good relationship with Rob, who wanted us to do the best we possibly could, but it was the whole GB staff as well. There was huge support – seven coaches, physios, nutritionists, psychologists. It's probably more professional up there than most pros get."

But the pressures were considerable because Joshua was the poster boy for amateur boxing, which he saw as both burden and inspiration. "I had a very good team around me, and they did their best to keep the pressure away, so there wasn't too much press work. I

Anthony Joshua celebrates after winning the gold medal, which should give him an enormous boost when he embarks on his pro career. Image: **Damien Myer-AFP-Getty Images**

just had to keep my feet on the ground and my sights on that goal."

But Joshua's opening bout in the London Games was a near-disaster. He faced the slick, quick 22-year-old Cuban Erislandy Savon, a nephew of the great Felix Savon, and seemed a little overawed, neglecting his jab and not letting his hands go. He shook Savon and was the heavier hitter, but amateur boxing is scored on clean punches landed, and Savon landed more. The judges, however, seemed swayed by the 9,500-strong crowd and gave it to the Londonder 17-16. If Savon had been credited with one more punch, he would have won on countback.

Joshua's response was the same as when he came short against Medzhidov: "I give of my best, and I leave it to the judges make the decisions. I believed I

Anthony Joshua and his fellow medalists from Great Britain are already celebrities in their country. Image: **Tom Dulat-Getty Images**

should be given the decision, but I never expect anything. I was just happy to get to the next round."

After that lucky escape, he faced China's huge 2008 silver medalist, Zhilei Zhang, and Lennox Lewis was on hand with some timely advice. "He started throwing jabs and shadow boxing, and told me to pop that jab out, to use it as a powerful weapon, and to stay focused," Joshua said.

This time a less-anxious Joshua made better use of his jab before dropping Zhang with a powerful right in the second and cruising to a relatively easy win.

"I was more confident because I'd learnt from the Savon fight about dealing with the crowd," he said. "I went in there knowing I was more determined and fitter than most of these big men, so even though he was bigger and more experienced and a southpaw, it all paid off."

Next up was the 6-foot-9 World Championships bronze medalist, Ivan Dychko, of Kazakhstan, who had looked extremely impressive in his opening two bouts. The more aggressive Joshua dominated throughout, clearly landing more scoring punches. But boxers from Kazakhstan (as well as Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan) seem to be favored by the judges and the Londoner needed a big last round to clinch it 13-11.

And so to the return with Cammarelle, who had outboxed Medzhidov to get to the finals. This time the Englishman controlled the first two minutes with his jab but then was caught in the corner and pounded with a series of hooks. "He didn't hurt me at all but I just thought, 'I need to get out of that corner. I can't just stand there and take them.'"

In the second, the Italian countered successfully and was three points up by the bell. "I didn't feel I was three points down," Joshua said, "but I respect the judges, and knew I had a job to do to turn it around. I definitely felt a sense of urgency, but I didn't want to turn it into a street fight. I just wanted to let my hands go and give it my all, so that I could hold me head up high. I didn't give him a break and worked non-stop on the inside and outside, and I could sense him fading."

The final score was 18-18 but 55-53 to Joshua on countback. Cammarelle launched a futile protest, and while the result might well have been different in another country, this one was hardly an outrage, and, of course, Joshua was an extremely popular winner with the ecstatic crowd at the ExCel Arena, which included his father, Jonathan, and his sister, Janet.

So far the pleas of promoters have been ignored, with Joshua insisting that he is not motivated by money.

"I'm going to stay amateur for now because I want to keep on learning," he says before returning to the subject of his gold-medal predecessors. "I want to learn from the good things Lennox and Audley did, and also from some of their mistakes, and to keep on improving. With time I know I will improve. Time will make me a more rounded fighter." ■

ONE FOR THE BOOKS

PASSIONATE AUTHOR TRAVELS THE WORLD TO GIVE YOU BOXING THROUGH THE EYES OF ITS LEGENDS

By **Norm Frauenheim**

The itinerary included Havana and Rome and, when there was nowhere else to sleep, a rest stop at the end of a freeway exit. On his personal odometer, the mileage is at 95,000 and counting. Alexandre Choko did his roadwork. Actually, he did a lot more than that.

Choko did a book, *The Future Of Boxing*, at his own expense and out of a deep passion for a sport not often given much of a future at all anymore. Choko lets the title speak for itself and his optimism. Then, he lets the fighters speak for themselves about a craft that was around in some form even before books.

He talks to George Foreman, Mike Tyson, Carmen Basilio, Marvin Hagler, Sugar Ray Leonard, Roberto Duran, Micky Ward, Ricardo Lopez, Oscar De La Hoya, Julio Cesar Chavez and so many more in what proves to be an informal, yet fascinating collection of what they remember, what they dislike and what they foresee.

Alongside records, birthdays and weight classes, beautiful photos of yesterday and today provide an irresistible look at who they were and who they are. Check out former middleweight Nino Benvenuti. The Italian is 74-years-old today, yet the 1960 Olympic gold medalist at the Rome Games looks like he just stepped off a surfboard at Huntington Beach.

Compelling photos, however, only augment the text. The beauty of Choko's slick, 364-page production is in what the fighters say, even in how they say it. The book might be designed for a coffee table. Make sure it's a very big table, by the way. But the fighters' words — faithfully translated in tone and context by Choko — give it a heartbeat.

Muhammad Ali delivers the first blow. Who else but boxing's greatest all-time showman, if not its greatest heavyweight? Choko was unable to speak to Ali directly, because of the Parkinson's that has virtually silenced him. But with the help of Angelo Dundee, Ali's late trainer, Choko got a written response to what he asks every fighter. What is the future?

"The future of boxing is me making a comeback to the ring," Ali said.

That sounds just like the young Ali full of bravado, confidence and humor. That Ali — his presence — has never left the ring. You hear him imitated, often to the point of exasperation, again and again. So much of his past is still boxing's future. In part, the fight to recapture his era can be heard in other fighters' voices. If there's a problem these days, they tell Choko, it is in the decline of the heavyweight division.

"... We got to wake up, because I can't sleep at night thinking there's no American heavyweight champion — and I'll bet there's a

Alexandre Choko, author of ***The Future of Boxing***, traveled the world to pick the brains of the sport's greatest figures.

lot of other guys who can't sleep either because there's no American heavyweight champ," says Roy Jones Jr., who once held a piece of the heavyweight title.

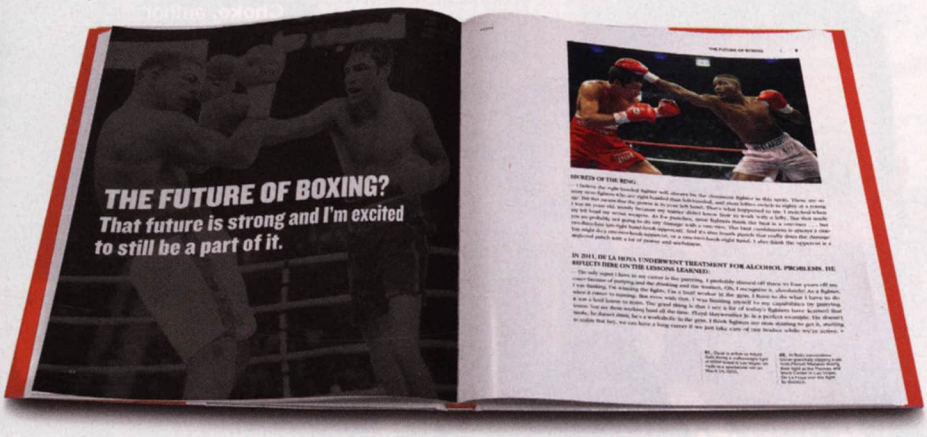
Choko also talks to promoter Bob Arum and De La Hoya, now a promoter. As bitter rivals these days, Arum and De La Hoya would argue about the color of the sky on a clear day. But about the heavyweights, they agree.

A great American heavyweight is just a matter of time, De La Hoya says.

"I think it's incumbent on me to revive the heavyweight division," Arum says.

But it is anybody's guess as to how that'll happen during an era when would-be heavyweights are linebackers, safeties and defensive ends on National Football League rosters. If Ali had been born in a later time, he might have been a wide receiver.

Choko doesn't have a solution. But neither does anybody else. Instead, Choko has great respect for the fighters and their roles in an interrupted theater older than even



Bernard Hopkins. In large part, his confidence in the future is rooted in the history that continues to be made. It's no coincidence that he talks to fighters of the current generation, including Nonito Donaire and Chad Dawson. Without them, there would be no Future Of Boxing.

In a comprehensive look at the sport, Choko's book ties today to yesterday. The first chapter is a history written by THE RING Magazine editor Michael Rosenthal, who unearths boxing's ancient roots with a photo of relief carvings from the ancient Sumerian culture. The depiction of two figures throwing punches is said to be from 3000 B.C. A fascinating timeline starts there, goes on to ancient Greece, Britain and the Marquess of Queensberry, Jack Johnson, Jack Dempsey and Gene Tunney, Joe Louis and Max Schmeling, mobsters Frankie Carbo and Blinky Palermo, Ali and Joe Frazier, Tyson, Manny Pacquiao, De La Hoya and Floyd Mayweather Jr.

Appropriately enough, the line's last stop is Hopkins, whose 2011 victory at 46 over Jean Pascal makes him the oldest ever to win a major title. In the next chapter, however, time continues with the fighters telling stories that explain their moments along a line that Choko believes will never end.

For him, that task turned into a five-year journey. He mortgaged his house. He sold an old Ferrari that he prized. The $45,000 he got for the car allowed him to continue on a quest without guarantees. He pursued Hagler. He went to Rome and thought he lined up an interview with the legendary middleweight, who moved to Italy and pursued an acting career. But Hagler wasn't there.

"I finally reached him and told him that a book of boxing without Marvin Hagler is like a classic car collection without a Ferrari," said Choko, a son of parents who teach architecture at Montreal universities and the father of a young daughter, Jolie Olympia. "I told him: 'You're the Ferrari.' "

Hagler finally spoke to him in Canastota, N.Y., home for the International Boxing Hall of Fame. Canastota was the site for many of his interviews. But not all. He traveled to Cuba and spent time with Olympic greats Felix Savon and Teofilo Stevenson. The trip to Cuba happened because he had friends close to former Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau. They got him in touch with a former Cuban Minister of Sport, who picked him up at the Havana Airport and took him straight to Stevenson's home. Choko was one of the last to speak with the legendary Olympic heavyweight, almost a mythic figure, before his death on July 11.

Stevenson, loyal to Cuba and Fidel Castro, never went pro. But

Sugar Ray Leonard is among those who provided insight for **Alexandre Choko's** book ***The Future of Boxing***.

Choko asked him about Ali, Joe Frazier and George Foreman. Stevenson told Choko he would have fought Ali to a draw. He said he believes he would have beaten Frazier and Foreman. Nobody will ever know. But wondering about it will always be part of boxing's past, present and future.

Choko is not without some of his own suggestions for change. Too many ruling bodies, he says, should be replaced by one authority. That's not new and might not be feasible in an international sport.

Other ideas, however, are pragmatic and possible. He asks for more fights in front of capacity crowds at smaller venues instead of pay-per-view fights in front of empty seats at big arenas. Choko, a former amateur boxer, includes two pages on the ongoing study of boxers at the Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health in Las Vegas. As a former owner of a Montreal Gym, he asks for more monitoring of what happens in sparring. Unreported injuries in training can lead to a fatality in the ring.

In a fun section, he writes about Hollywood's love affair with boxing movies and its relationship with celebrities. It wouldn't be a big fight without movie stars in ringside seats.

Choko is also not afraid to take some subtle, if not gentle, shots. There's a section on Don King. In a black-and-white photo next to his name, you see King's back clothed in a familiar denim jacket covered with sequins, his face and trademark, Only in America. "The Future of Boxing?" King asks. "You can just rule me out!" It's as if King is leaving the scene.

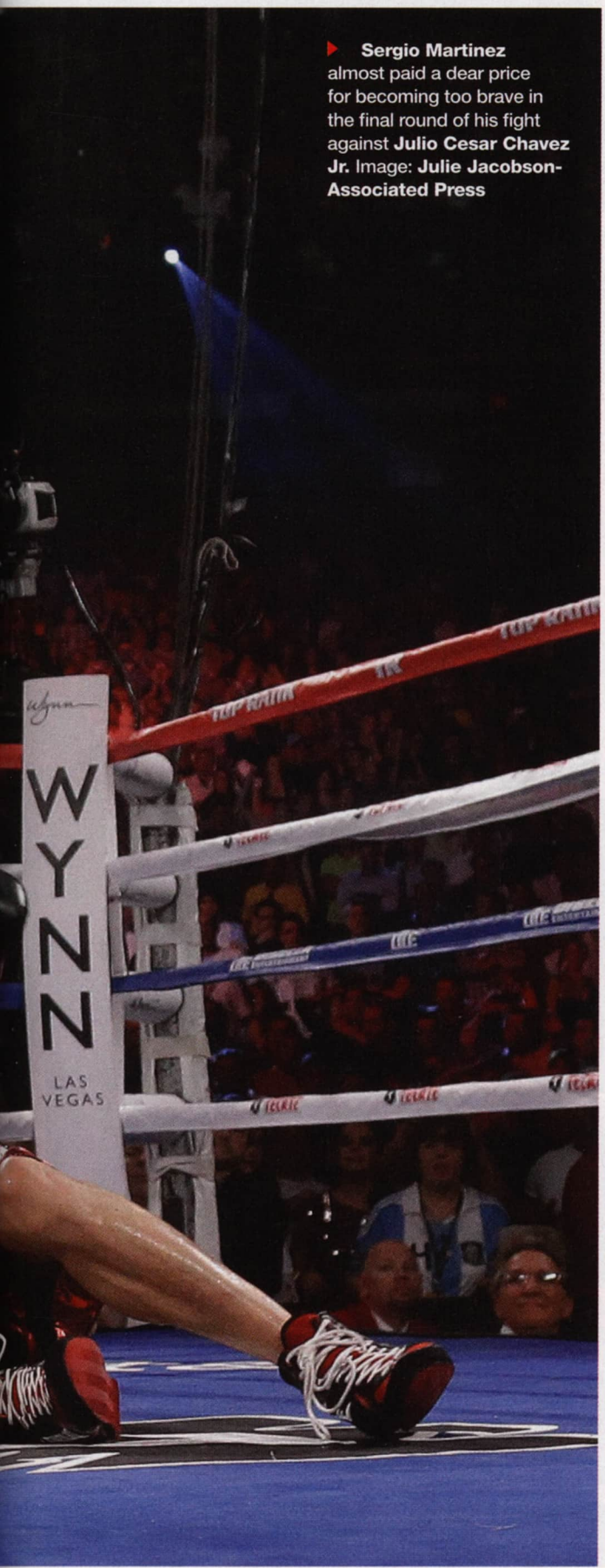
"There's been controversy about boxing for a billion years," Jake LaMotta says. "There's always something to write about or talk about or make up stories and things. All that's been around for a long time and you don't know which stories are true and which aren't. What more can you say about boxing?"

A lot more, thanks to Alexandre Choko. ■

Alexandre Choko (above) and his family are pictured with author **Bert Sugar**, one of six people Choko interviewed for his book who are no longer with us. Below, Choko is surrounded by that which consumed five years of his life — his book.

Image: **Thierry Quennette**

CHAVEZ JR
TOP RANK
TR
TECATE
SONORA
SI
DIBELLA



Sergio Martinez almost paid a dear price for becoming too brave in the final round of his fight against **Julio Cesar Chavez Jr.** Image: **Julie Jacobson-Associated Press**

SERGIO MARTINEZ UD12 JULIO CEASAR CHAVEZ JR.

LESSON LEARNED?

SERGIO MARTINEZ DOMINATED JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ JR. UNTIL HE GOT STUPID IN THE 12TH ROUND, A LESSON THAT MIGHT SERVE HIM IN A REMATCH.

By **Ron Borges**

LAS VEGAS – Within 15 minutes after Sergio Martinez reclaimed the WBC middleweight title from Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. that he never lost to him in the first place, calls rang out from Vegas to Dallas begging for a rematch. This brought to mind an immediate thought.

Why?

It is not often there is a call for a rematch after one fighter loses 11 of the first 12 rounds on two of the three judges' scorecards and 10 of 12 on the third, but such is the pull of last-minute hospitalization.

For 34 minutes and 41 seconds, Sergio Martinez administered a blistering boxing clinic in front of 19,181 witnesses and to one hapless student. He dominated him with speed, movement, geometric precision of angles and ring savvy, seldom putting himself in a position to be hit while cuffing Chavez around the ring until his left eye was nearly closed, his right was beginning to, his nose was dripping blood and his mouth was filled with it.

Martinez was not only able to hit Chavez at will, he left him perplexed and utterly baffled as to what he could do to stem what had become a high tide of leather. Round after round Martinez slammed him with a long right jab out of his southpaw stance followed by hard straight lefts to the body and the middle of his face, taunting him at times by keeping his hands so low he could have more easily tied his boxing boots than protected his matinee-idol face.

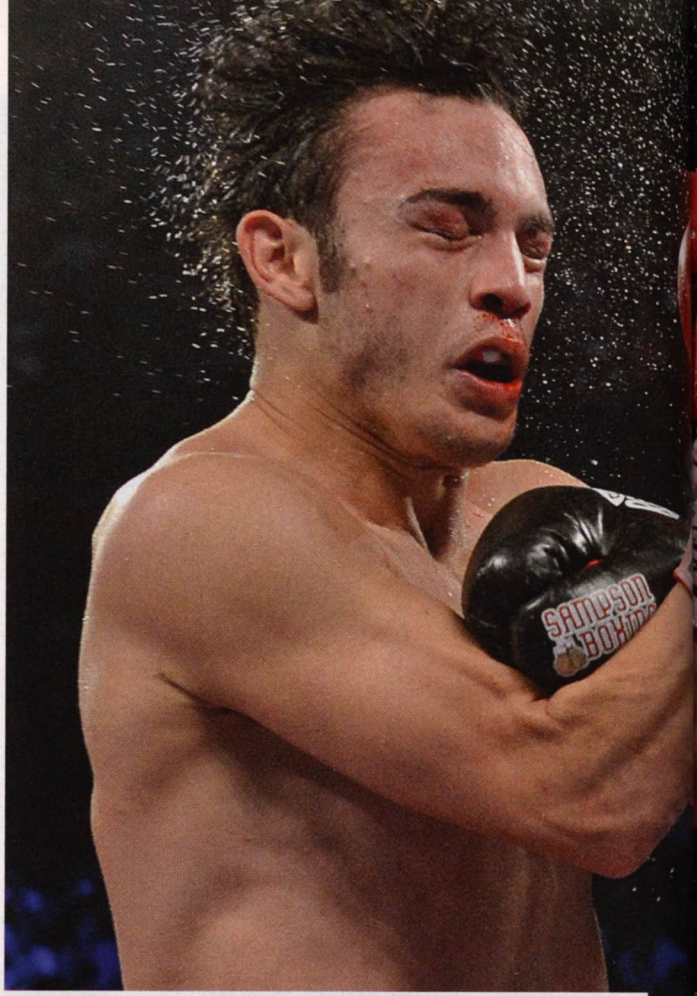
The 26-year-old Chavez's resume was long on victories but short on tests until he entered the ring at the Thomas & Mack Center. He was like a kid who once aced the PSATs and now thought he was ready for the Graduate Record Exam. He was wrong. And the belief held by his handlers that Martinez's age (37) and signs of slippage would dove-tail with Chavez's size advantage and youth — that turned out to be far from the truth.

And then Sergio Martinez got stupid.

For 34 minutes and 41 seconds, Martinez slipped in and out and moved side to side so adroitly that young Chavez became mesmerized, unable to cut off the ring against a superior boxer. Left to his own devices, Chavez could do only one thing: wade forward with grim resolution, occasionally landing a body shot but only, it seemed, when Martinez went willingly to the ropes as a way to remind Chavez he could escape him whenever he wished. It was an exercise in pain infliction and, in Chavez's case, pain management.

For months before the fight Martinez had built up a terrible resentment of Chavez, who he felt was not only disrespectful but had been handed the WBC belt by his godfather, WBC president Jose Sulaiman, rather than having to fight for it. Since Martinez was the champion and was long-willing to face Chavez, he had a good point. But it seemed as the fight drew closer that Martinez let his emotions overrun common sense. Certainly that's what happened late on the evening of Sept. 15.

Although the WBC's green strap was the symbol of his ire, the real reason for Martinez's truculence was that in Chavez he saw everything he never was, every opportunity he never had, every struggle from a life in the slums of Buenos Aires that young Chavez knew nothing about as the son of Mexico's greatest boxer.



Sergio Martinez (below, on the right) had no trouble finding his target all night long but also took a few good shots from **Julio Cesar Chavez Jr.** (previous page). Images: **Naoki Fukuda**

Doors opened for Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. from the day he decided, well into his teens, to follow his father's footsteps into the arena. While Martinez was scrambling up a hard road, Chavez was walking on a red carpet. This continued even after Martinez became champion eight years after being fed to the wolves early in his career, knocked out by Antonio Margarito in a fight he was not ready for and was paid only $900 to accept.

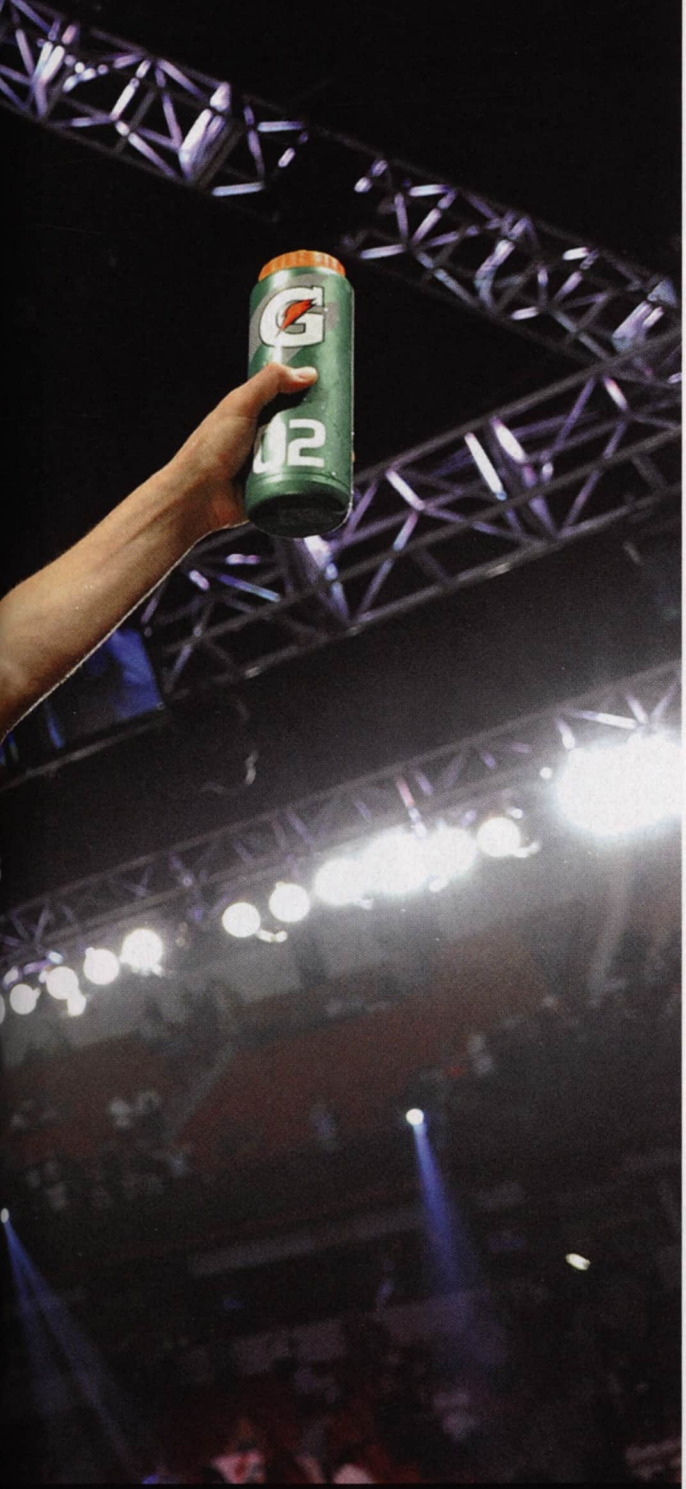
Unlike Chavez, who had spent his entire career in swaddling clothes, Martinez was never protected, fighting in obscurity until he knocked out Paul Williams two years ago in two rounds to win a WBC title that would later be taken from him simply so Chavez could fight for it against an opponent (Sebastian Zbik) the WBC refused to let Martinez face. Even on this night, when he finally had him in the ring, Martinez had to pay a price, receiving less than half of what Chavez was paid ($1.4 million to $3 million) even though he was widely seen as among the top pound-for-pound fighters in the world and Chavez a 2-to-1 underdog.

"It's easy to talk when he is not in front of me," Martinez (50-2-2, 28 knockouts) said through an interpreter before the fight. "It's very easy to be so violent and say things about me when I was not in front of him. But did you see him at the faceoff (on HBO)? Then he understood what is coming for him. Look at his eyes when he is in front of me. You see the fear."

Certainly there was concern and later resignation on Chavez's bloodied face as the fight wore on, but at the last moment Martinez forgot who he was — a profes-

sional. At the last moment he decided he wanted more than to win. He was no longer satisfied to leave Chavez broken and embarrassed. He wanted him at his feet. In so doing he made talk of a rematch a viable business plan.

Martinez tried to close the show despite fighting with a broken left hand injured in the fourth round and he walked into a hard right to the face followed by Chavez's trademark left hook. With Martinez stunned and slumping along the ropes, Chavez leapt forward. His face bloody and his eyes bruised slits, he saw his moment and he battered Martinez with three more hard lefts to the face, the second spinning him sideways and sending him to the floor so awkwardly Martinez would tear a ligament in his knee that would have to be surgically repaired. As he fell, the sold-out crowd rose as one, bellowing in primal adulation or shocked trepidation depending on individual allegiances or betting slips.



Sergio Martinez ran into a problem late in his fight against **Julio Cesar Chavez Jr.** but survived to celebrate. Image: **Jeff Bottari-Getty Images**

Martinez rose wobbling like a slowing top and tried to hold on but eventually fell a second time in what was correctly ruled a push by referee Tony Weeks. As Chavez grew weary, his punches turned frantic and less imposing. When Martinez arose the second time, he was just clear headed enough to realize he was half-witless, a state that demanded prudence, not aggression, and he held on to the final bell. What followed was inevitable.

Judges Adalaide Byrd and Dave Moretti had Martinez winning 118-109 while Stanley Christodoulou saw it 117-110. THE RING agreed with Christoudoulou, and Chavez (46-1-1, 32 KOs) did not dispute the obvious. As he listened, his left eyelid had turned into a half-drawn shade, his right was badly discolored. Blood leaked from his nose and mouth. His face now carried the undeniable evidence of a lost bet.

Across the ring, Martinez's left eye was cut, he had a second gash in his scalp from a clash of heads that would require two clamps to close. His left hand ached from a hairline fracture and his knee had already begun to swell. While Martinez had prevailed, the focus now was as much on the ending as the bulk of the night. In boxing's odd calculus, Chavez had won something even in a one-sided beat down. He'd won the right to demand a chance to do it again. Promoter Bob Arum was claiming immediately that Dallas Cowboys' owner Jerry Jones had called about staging a rematch in Cowboys Stadium.

"When you have lightning in a bottle, you don't want to let it go," said Lou DiBella, Martinez's hyperventilating promoter. "A rematch at Cowboys Stadium would be the biggest fight you can make in boxing, I think. I know Julio wants it. And Sergio will do what the fans want."

He may, but not until next spring at the earliest and certainly not if Floyd Mayweather Jr. wants a go at him. Whatever his condition, it was better than Chavez's, who was exposed as someone who did not properly prepare — unless one considers conducting training sessions in his living room because he didn't want to go to the gym training — and who looked like a primary school student adrift inside a Harvard physics lab much of the night.

"The speed was the difference," said Freddie Roach, Chavez's dismayed trainer. "I told him to go out and exchange with him every round. He needed to let his hands go sooner. I knew Martinez was good. I just didn't know how good. Chavez can do better. This was a good lesson for him."

It was also the kind that could be dismissed because of the drama of the fight's ending, which was enough for many, including Chavez, to look at it all in an entirely new light.

"I was 20 seconds away from knocking him out," Chavez lamented. "I started way too late. I didn't really get started until the eighth round. I was very tight. I was thinking about throwing punches instead of just throwing punches. I don't know what happened."

Sergio Martinez happened, and then he happened to get stupid for a minute. Who thinks he'll do that again? ■

SAUL ALVAREZ KO 5 JOSESITO LOPEZ

'BORN READY'

CANELO ALVAREZ MAKES QUICK WORK OF JOSESITO LOPEZ; EYES BIGGER CHALLENGES

By **Doug Fischer**

LAS VEGAS — Saul Alvarez did what he was supposed to do against Josesito Lopez but did it so well that he was still impressive.

The budding Mexican star was an overwhelming favorite to beat Lopez in the main event of his first major headliner in the U.S. and the redheaded boxer-puncher proved the oddsmakers correct by brutally outclassing the gutsy underdog to a fifth-round stoppage in front of more than 14,000 raucous fans in the MGM Grand Garden Arena.

Saul "Canelo" Alvarez teed off on **Josesito Lopez** as long as the fight lasted. Image: **Josh Hedges-Getty Images**

Saul "Canelo" Alvarez celebrated another victory and then set his sights on bigger things. Image: **Nick Laham-Golden Boy**

Josesito Lopez (right) was game but couldn't handle **Saul "Canelo" Alvarez's** punching power. Image: **Josh Hedges-Getty Images**

Alvarez (41-0-1, 30 knockouts) dropped Lopez in rounds two, three and four before pummeling the outgunned challenger in a corner, where referee Joe Cortez stepped in to spare the undersized fighter any more punishment.

The knockout won't earn the 22-year-old nicknamed "Canelo" any accolades from boxing writers but it made for good TV and thrilled the sellout crowd. That's all Alvarez's promoter, Golden Boy Promotions, is concerned about.

Golden Boy believes Alvarez can be a star in the U.S. He filled an arena in the same city and on the same night that Mexico's "other" young star — Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. — was in action, and he did so against a "no-hoper."

That's not a dig at Lopez (30-5, 18 KOs). The 28-year-old veteran from Riverside, Calif., is a real fighter, but he isn't a junior middleweight. Alvarez, who successfully defended his WBC 154-pound title, definitely is.

Lopez, who crashed the welterweight rankings by upsetting Victor Ortiz in June, admitted that after the fight.

"Canelo is a badass," Lopez said. "I was definitely out of my weight. I fought my heart out but it wasn't enough."

Lopez should not hang his head in shame. His heart made the bout as entertaining as a beat-down can be. The first knockdown that Alvarez scored with a left hook to the liver would have kept most natural 154-pounders down.

After two more knockdowns, Lopez looked as though he had absorbed 10 rounds of punishment, but he fought on and even landed some punches, none of which bothered Alvarez.

Still, Lopez did all right for the fourth choice of opponent.

He was a substitute for Ortiz, who was a substitute for James Kirkland, who had accepted the fight but later declined citing unhealed injuries and money issues. Kirkland was a substitute for Paul Williams, who tragically suffered a motorcycle accident that ended his boxing career shortly after the bout was made.

Alvarez was not fazed by the round robin of potential opponents that went on for months leading into the promotion. He knew all along that his opponent didn't really matter. He is the attraction.

"I'm very happy. I thought it was a great event," Alvarez said. "I think Lopez is a great fighter, and I wish him well. He was tough, but I took my time, I did my work. The left hooks to the body were part of the game plan."

Josesito Lopez (right) was safer in this position in his loss to **Saul "Canelo" Alvarez.** Image: **Josh Hedges-Getty Images**

It was appropriate that a Mexican attraction used Mexico's signature punch — the hook to the liver — to win a big show headliner on Mexican Independence Day weekend.

Now that Alvarez has preserved his upward career trajectory, the two questions are: Who is next, and when?

"Whoever my team wants me to fight, I'm ready," Alvarez said. "I don't know when my next fight will be."

When asked if dates are available for a return to the ring before the end of the year, Golden Boy CEO Richard Schaefer said dates are never a concern when dealing with Alvarez.

"Canelo Alvarez is a superstar," Schaefer said. "When he decides when he wants to fight, he fights, and it's an event."

If Alvarez is the superstar that Schaefer claims, then it's time for him to step up and take part in a "super fight."

Miguel Cotto would make for such a mega-event. However, the Puerto Rican star has a Dec. 1 fight against undefeated Austin Trout, who could prove to be difficult to beat. That leaves Floyd Mayweather Jr., who is currently without a dance partner for his next bout.

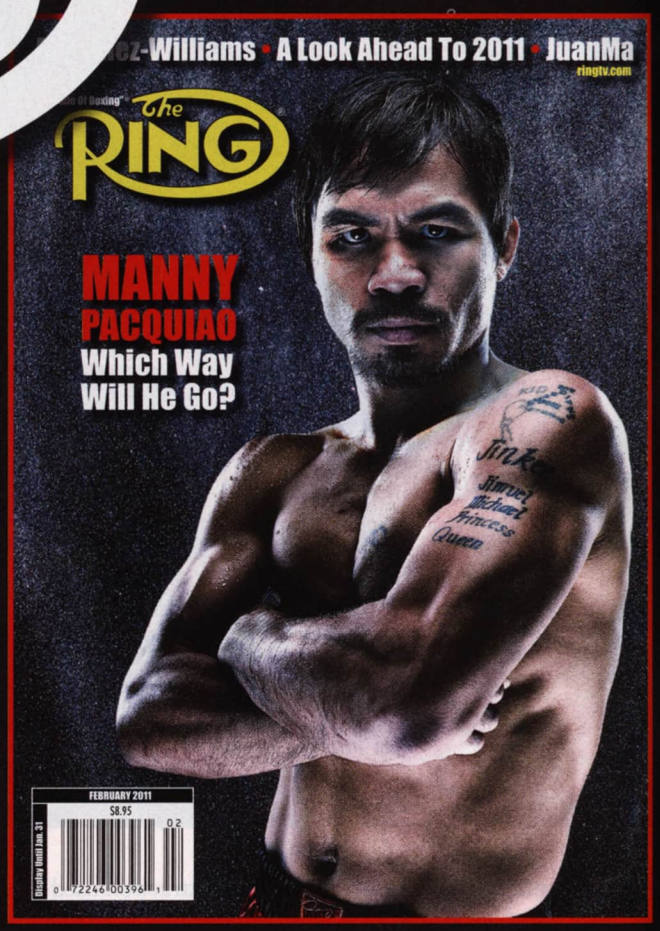
If Alvarez wants to take the U.S. by storm, there's no better way than to take on America's No. 1 star. When asked if he believes he is ready for Mayweather, Alvarez replied:

"I was born ready." ■

Referee **Joe Cortez** wanted to be certain that a beaten **Josesito Lopez** heard the count. Image: **Tom Hogan-Hoganphotos**

The Bible of Boxing® since 1922!

The RING®



SUBSCRIBE AND SAVE AS MUCH AS 70%

Please Check Off The One You Wish To Order:

Save Over 35% Off Newsstand Price!

☐ Six Issues of The Ring for $33.70* 610300

Save Over 50% Off Newsstand Price!

☐ One Year of The Ring for $53.70* 610300

Plus The Ring Digital Edition for Free (A $29.95 value)!

SUPER SAVER—Over 60% Off Newsstand!

☐ Two Years of The Ring for $78.70* 610300

Plus The Ring Digital Edition for Free (A $59.90 value)!

DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION—Over 70% Off Newsstand!

☐ One Year of The Ring Digital Edition for $29.95

MAIL TO: Sports & Entertainment Publications LLC
P.O. Box 433122, Palm Coast, FL 32164-3122

TELEPHONE: 1-800-846-6438

E-MAIL: thering@emailcustomerservice.com

Please indicate method of payment:

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to Sports & Entertainment Publications LLC)
☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

Card #__ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __

Expiration Date: ___/___ (MO/YR) ___ ___ ___ (3-DIGIT SECURITY CODE)

Signature:_____

NAME_____

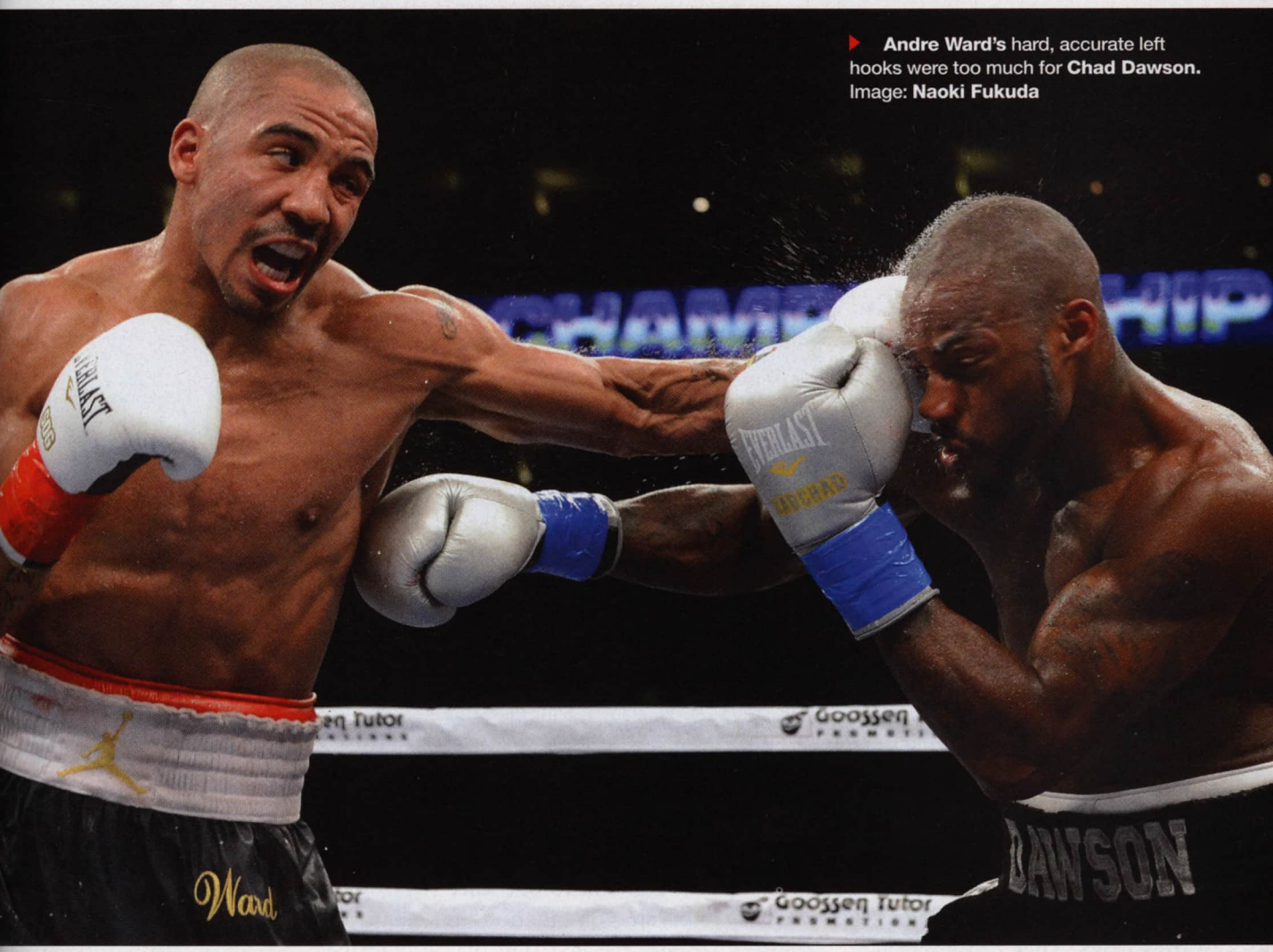
ADDRESS_____APT.____

CITY_____STATE_____ZIP_____

E-MAIL_____
(necessary for digital subscription)

TELEPHONE_____

*For Canada and Mexico: $52.50 for 6 issues; $86.70 for one year; $127.10 for two years. All other countries: $81 for 6 issues; $143.70 for one year; $210.60 for two years. International money orders only in U.S. funds only. Airmail shipping only outside the U.S. Please allow up to eight weeks before you receive your first magazine. Offer expires December 31, 2012



Andre Ward's hard, accurate left hooks were too much for **Chad Dawson.** Image: **Naoki Fukuda**

NEW HEIGHTS

ANDRE WARD TAKES ANOTHER BIG STEP TOWARD SUPERSTARDOM WITH KO OF CHAD DAWSON

By **Michael Rosenthal**

OAKLAND, Calif. – One of the many problems in boxing is that fighters tiptoe their way through their opposition, occasionally fighting a worthy challenger but feeding primarily on easy prey.

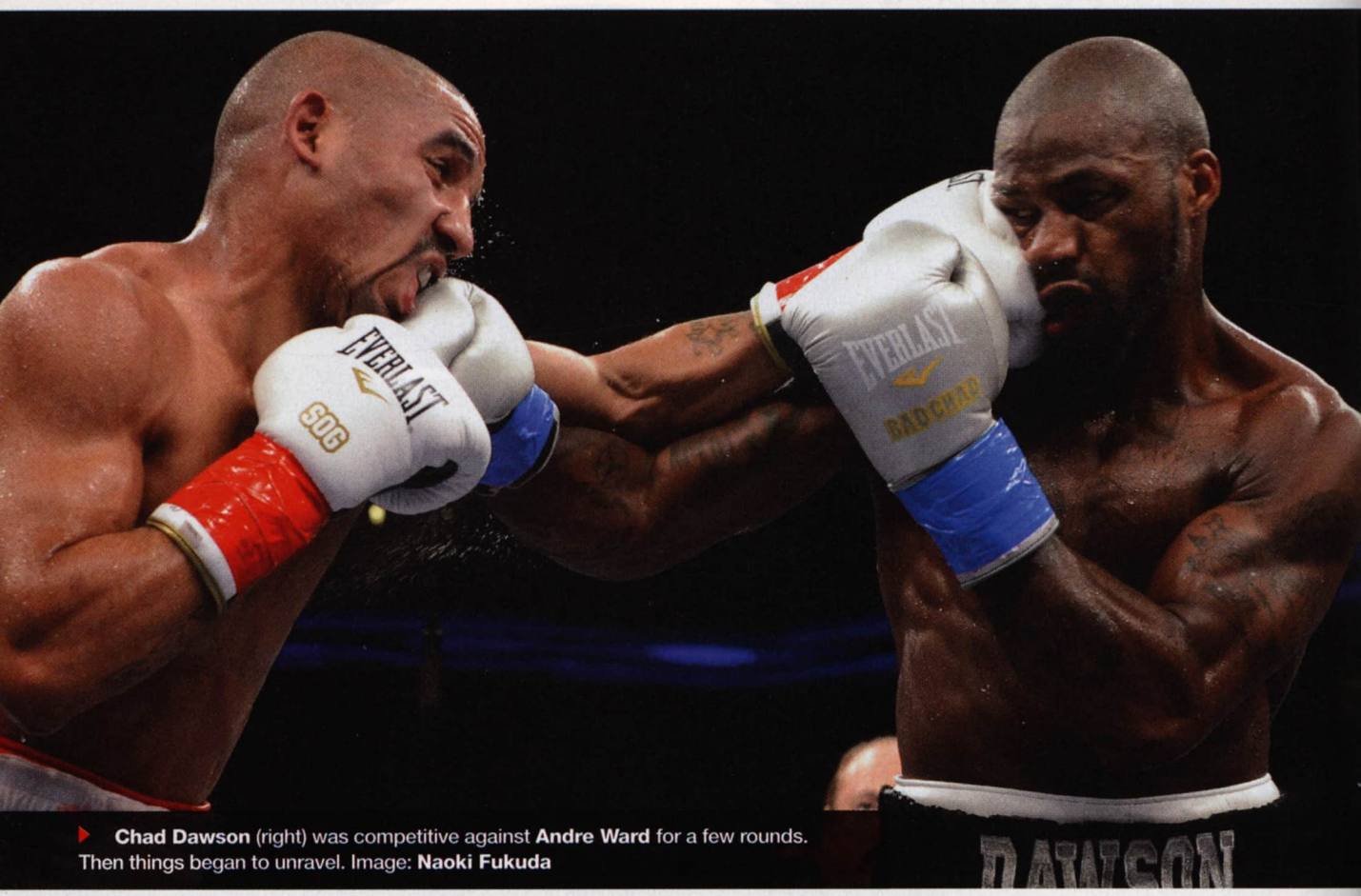
Some fighters take a more difficult path. Manny Pacquiao did before he became a superstar, facing a gauntlet of tough Mexicans. Carl Froch has, in part because of his participation in the Super Six World Boxing Classic. The same can be said of Andre Ward, who has fought one elite opponent after another.

The thing that sets Ward apart is his utter domination in decisions over all of his elite foes, Edison Miranda, Mikkel Kessler, Allan Green, Sakio Bika, Arthur Abraham and Carl Froch. Ward won 176 of 207 rounds (85 percent) in those fights, with one even round and two 115-113 scores against Froch that still have me scratching my head.

Froch took some solice after their meeting by saying with some pride that at least he had given Ward a better fight than anyone else, his way of acknowledging Ward's special talent.

There was one problem, though: Ward wasn't lifting fans out of their seats with his performances.

Aficionados marveled at his ability to break down even high-



Chad Dawson (right) was competitive against **Andre Ward** for a few rounds. Then things began to unravel. Image: **Naoki Fukuda**

quality opponents fight after fight with his rare combination of ability and grit. However, fans who crave action were left wanting after Ward's fights. They can appreciate a fine technician but love a fighter who can punctuate a virtuoso performance with a thrilling knockout.

Enter Chad Dawson on Sept. 8 at the Oracle Arena in Ward's hometown. Ward, THE RING super middleweight champion, took a risk by agreeing to fight THE RING light heavyweight champ, even in his backyard.

Dawson was the naturally bigger man, although coming down to 168 for the fight couldn't have been easy. And he had boxing and athletic skills that seemed to be comparable to that of Ward, who was deemed the tougher of the two.

Seasoned observers expected Ward to win but saw the fight as perhaps the biggest test of Ward's still-young career.

Well, in the end, Ward outdid himself. The 2004 Olympic gold medalist sent Dawson to one knee with a right-left combination in the third round, the first sign that Dawson was in over his head. Early in the fourth, Ward landed a crushing left that put Dawson down and hurt him badly. Somehow he survived but his fate seemed sealed.

In the 10th, a five-punch combination sent Dawson to one knee again and he couldn't go on. He reportedly turned to referee Steve Smoger during the count and said, "It's over, it's finished, I'm done." Smoger stopped the fight at 2:45 of the round, giving Ward his biggest victory to date.

Just as important, Ward gave the devoted spectators on hand and those watching on TV what they've craved — excitement. The fans at Oracle were left breathless by Ward's performance and one had to assume those at home were left shaking their heads.

Ward (26-0, 14 knockouts) had not only dominated the best light heavyweight in the world, he crushed him.

"The better the competition, I rise to the occasion," Ward said immediately afterward.

To Dawson's credit, he offered no excuses. He could've said that making the 168-pound limit at 30 and for the first time in more than six years took a significant toll, which many observers suggested was possible.

Instead, he gave the better man the credit he deserved.

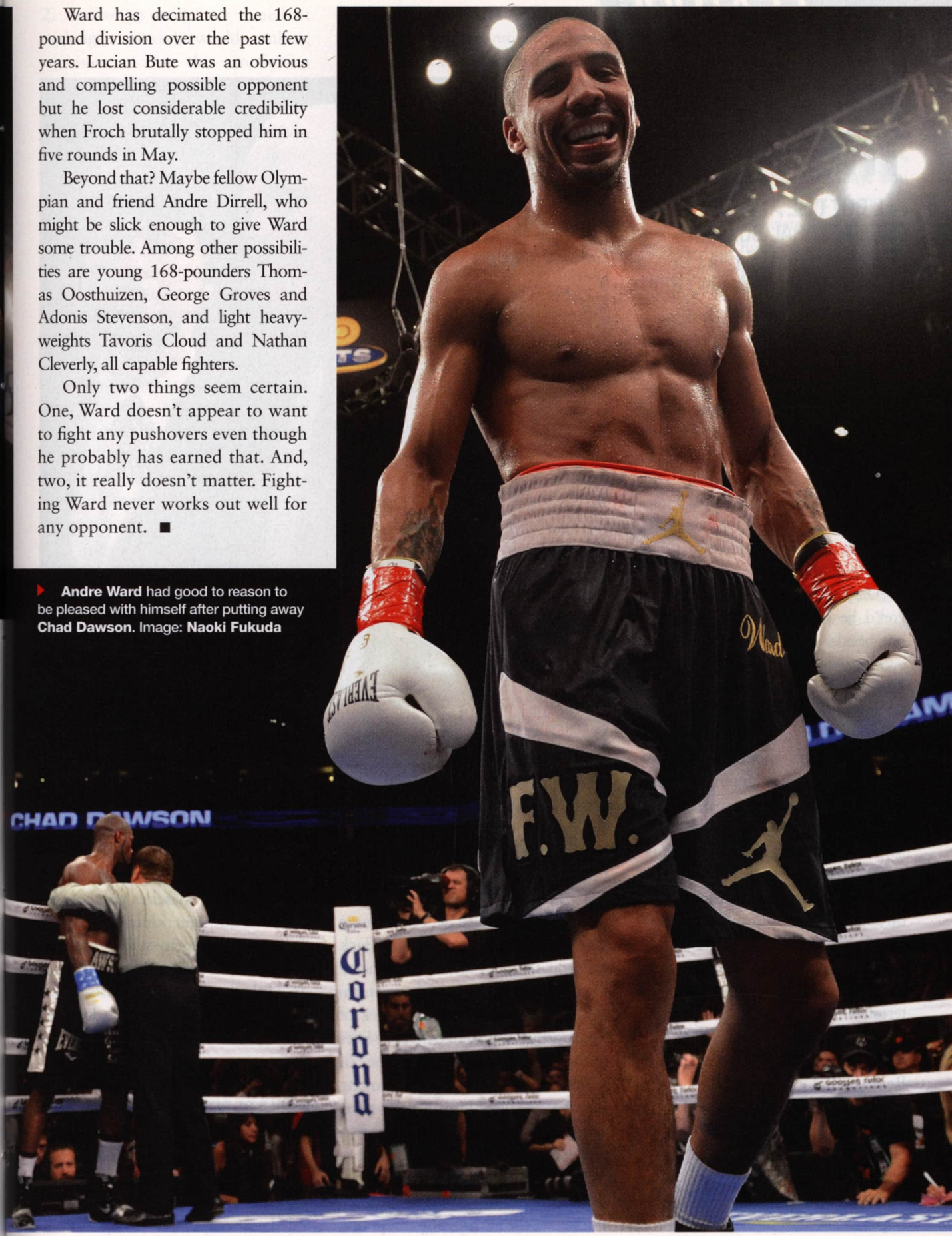
"He's a lot faster than I thought he would be," said Dawson (31-2, 17 KOs). "He was strong, too. I can't take anything away from him. He really is one of the best."

Now the big question is: What next?

Ward has decimated the 168-pound division over the past few years. Lucian Bute was an obvious and compelling possible opponent but he lost considerable credibility when Froch brutally stopped him in five rounds in May.

Beyond that? Maybe fellow Olympian and friend Andre Dirrell, who might be slick enough to give Ward some trouble. Among other possibilities are young 168-pounders Thomas Oosthuizen, George Groves and Adonis Stevenson, and light heavyweights Tavoris Cloud and Nathan Cleverly, all capable fighters.

Only two things seem certain. One, Ward doesn't appear to want to fight any pushovers even though he probably has earned that. And, two, it really doesn't matter. Fighting Ward never works out well for any opponent. ■



Andre Ward had good to reason to be pleased with himself after putting away **Chad Dawson**. Image: **Naoki Fukuda**

UPSET OF THE YEAR?

ALL BUT ONE ATTEMPT TO PASS FEDERAL BOXING LEGISLATION HAS FAILED. SENATORS McCAIN AND REID ARE TRYING AGAIN.

By **Daniel Blynn**

Sen. John McCain (pictured with filmmaker **Ken Burns** promoting a pardon for **Jack Johnson**) has championed legislation to protect boxers for years. Image: **Alex Wong-Getty Images**

Donnie Penelton, Reggie Strickland, Andre Crowder and Brad Rone. These are the names of professional boxers who plied their craft in the United States during the 1980s, 1990s and 2000s. Between the four of them, they had nearly 670 pro fights.

Despite that extensive experience, you'd be hard pressed to find anyone besides boxing fanatics who has ever heard of a single one of them. They've never headlined an HBO or Showtime card, and finding any of their fights on YouTube is a challenge (although, there is footage of a 2005 fight in which Penelton suffered a second-round TKO loss to a then-3-0 Jean Pascal).

It's very likely that Floyd Mayweather Jr. has bet more money on a single NBA game than all four made throughout their entire careers combined. Yet, if they were still boxing today, Penelton, Strickland, Crowder and Rone all would be incredibly interested in the status of the federal boxing legislation introduced by U.S. Senators John McCain and Harry Reid (both former amateur boxers) in June 2012 following the debacle that was Timothy Bradley's decision victory over Manny Pacquiao. That is because those four boxers' livelihoods would have been significantly impacted if the proposed legislation actually was law. More on them later.

Federal boxing legislation has been a pet project of Senator McCain for the past two decades. He has proposed legislation every year since 1996 (he also led the charge for a presidential pardon for Jack Johnson, the early 20th-century black heavyweight champion who was imprisoned on trumped-up charges of transporting a woman over state lines for immoral purposes). All but one of his attempts to pass federal boxing regulations failed. However, that has not stopped McCain from championing federal oversight of boxing.

In June, following the Pacquaio-Bradley fight, McCain and Reid introduced the Professional Boxing Amendments Act of 2012. The cornerstone of the Act is the creation of a United States Boxing Commission, which would be charged with overseeing boxing matches in the U.S. and, as McCain characterized it, "ensur[ing] integrity within the profession" by "requiring that the sport avoid the conflicts of interests which cause fans to question the outcome of bouts, which hurts the sport."

THE COMMISSION, IN PARTICULAR, WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR:

1. Developing minimum contractual guidelines to better protect boxers from entering into grossly one-sided contracts.

2. Instituting guidelines aimed at making a boxer's world ranking consistent across the sanctioning bodies. For example: No longer would a fighter become a top contender in one major organization and be nowhere to be found in the other three.

3. Ensuring that there are uniform boxer health and safety standards across the states.

While each provision of the act could be the subject of its own article, the ones dealing with boxer health and safety deserve specific attention here. Under the Act, all fights would be subject to the federal Boxing Commission's approval. However, the Commission's direct approval would apply only to championship bouts or bouts in which at least one of the boxers has lost 10 times in a row or been knocked out in five consecutive fights.

All boxers would be compelled to submit to pre-fight medical exams, which would include testing for infectious diseases such as HIV and AIDS. One might recall that even though Tommy Morrison tested positive for HIV before a fight in 1996 in Las Vegas, he was licensed in 2007 to fight in West Virginia, which did not require blood tests at the time). At the fights themselves, the continuous presence of ambulances and emergency personnel with resuscitation equipment would be required. And, among other things, under the Act, a boxer who is suspended in one state would no longer be able to obtain a license to fight in another state.

As history has shown, it is unlikely that the Professional Boxing Amendments Act will ultimately become law. But suppose that the legislation did pass and was signed into law; what would be the Act's effect on the current state of boxing and the sport's recent past?

Remember those four boxers identified at the beginning of this article? Their careers might have been drastically shortened for their own good. For example, Donnie Penelton, who finished his career with a 13-166-6 record over 19 years, probably would not have received a license to box after only his 19th fight. He had lost his previous 10 fights, which was nothing compared to streaks of 21 and 32 consecutive losses later in his career.

Reggie Strickland had five different losing streaks of 10 fights or more, including 21 straight losses at one point, before he retired in 2005 with a record of 66-276-17. Andre Crowder fought for 15 years and amassed a record of 8-55-4. At one point, he went 36 fights with no victories and a single draw; 20 of his losses during that streak were by knockout, including seven in a row.

Had the Professional Boxing Amendments Act been in effect during Strickland and Crowder's careers they, like Penelton, surely would have been denied licenses early on. I've never met any of these three boxers so I can't pass judgment on the state of their health. I hope that they are all in good physical condition and that the numerous beatings they suffered do not have any residual effects. However, one need only watch interviews Meldrick Taylor gave near the end of his career — the ones in which his speech was so slurred from brain damage that subtitles were needed — to understand the toll such punishment in the ring can take.

Finally, Bradley Rone ended his 7-43-3 career on July 18, 2003, with 27 consecutive losses. Rone was a perennial "silent offering" to fighters looking to build their professional records. He had high blood pressure and was grossly overweight. If the Professional Boxing Amendments Act had existed when Rone was fighting, he probably would not have been licensed to fight well before July 2003. Sometimes boxing is all a man is qualified to do, though, and critics might argue that it is not the government's role to stop a man from pursuing his livelihood. But, had there been federal intervention, Rone may still be alive today. You see, Rone died in the ring during his final fight. In a twisted bit of irony, he took that fight on one day's notice immediately upon learning that his mother had passed away; he needed the money to purchase a plane ticket to Ohio to attend her funeral. His purse was to be $800. Rone never should have been allowed to enter the ring that day.

There are close to 20,000 professional boxers in the world, and the dream for many is to fight in Las Vegas or Madison Square Garden. The vast majority of professional boxers, however, fall somewhere on the spectrum closer to the unknown Peneltons, Stricklands, Crowders and Rones than they do to the Pacquiaos and Mayweathers. Whether it is at the state or federal level, there must be controls in place to ensure the health and safety of boxers, as well as the integrity of the sport. That much is uncontroversial.

While the Professional Boxing Amendments Act will likely meet the same demise as previous attempts to legislate boxing, maybe — just maybe — it will not. Remember, no one gave Buster Douglas a chance to beat Mike Tyson that night in February 1990. Boxing history is scattered with such upsets. Stranger things have happened. ■

Daniel Blynn is an attorney at Kelley Drye & Warren LLP and novice boxer, regularly training at the Downtown Boxing Club in Washington, D.C.

COMPILED BY **MIKE COPPINGER**

Grzegorz Proksa found himself with a glove his face for as long as his fight against **Gennady Golovkin** lasted. Image: **Sumio Yamada-K2 Promotions**

GENNADY GOLOVKIN TKO 5 GRZEGORZ PROKSA

DATE: SEPT. 1, 2012
SITE: TURNING STONE RESORT & CASINO, VERONA, N.Y.
DIVISION: MIDDLEWEIGHT
WEIGHTS: GOLOVKIN 159; PROKSA 159
RING RATING (GOING INTO FIGHT): GOLOVKIN, NO. 8; PROKSA, NO. 9
NETWORK: HBO

Until his American debut, Gennady Golvokin was more legend than reality with stories of his gym wars piquing the public's interest. He had been called the best-kept secret in boxing with his pulverizing knockouts overseas. After his crushing knockout of contender Grzegorz Proksa, Golovkin earned another moniker: Real Deal.

The 2004 Olympic silver medalist landed a series of thudding shots in the fifth round that staggered Proksa to the ropes. Golovkin, rated No. 3 by THE RING, calmly followed him and connected on a few more, resulting in his third and final knockdown of the night. Proksa managed to make it to his feet after landing on his face but referee Charlie Fitch wisely called it off at 1:11.

Golovkin (24-0, 21 knockouts) made a statement in his HBO debut. He battered a credible foe into submission, rendering him flat on his face at the conclusion of the bout.

The fight was an exposé of Golovkin's educated boxing skills. The murderous puncher unloaded crisp body shots that were perfectly placed, setting up shots upstairs. He punched around gloves. Golovkin even unveiled a rare weapon: a power jab.

Proksa (28-2, 21 KOs), a southpaw stylist, was game and had some moments but couldn't stand up to Golovkin's power. Coming off a defeat of Kerry Hope, avenging his lone career loss, he got the call to replace Dmitry Pirog after the latter hurt his back training for Golovkin. The 27-year-old native of Poland survived knockdowns in the first and fourth rounds, yet his will never wavered. Golovkin was just too strong, too poised and too good.

After the fight, the WBA middleweight beltholder called on his cohorts in an attempt to consolidate the belts.

"I want a unification fight," said Golovkin, who is promoted by the Klitschko brothers' K2 Promotions. "Look at me, please, c'mon guys. I'm ready. I want to fight."

The performance left boxing pundits and purists alike salivating to see the 30-year-old native of Kazakhstan again. And soon.

–Mike Coppinger

Daniel Geale (right) gave a spirited effort in his split-decision victory over **Felix Sturm**. Image: **Joern Pollex-Bongarts-Getty Images**

DANIEL GEALE SD 12 FELIX STURM

DATE: SEPT. 1, 2012
SITE: KOENIG PILSENER ARENA, OBERHAUSEN, GERMANY
DIVISION: MIDDLEWEIGHT
WEIGHTS: GEALE 158¾; STURM 158¾
RING RATING (GOING INTO FIGHT): GEALE NO. 2; STURM NO. 1

While Sergio Martinez asserted his supremacy as the top middleweight in the world with his victory over Julio Cesar Chavez Jr., Australian Daniel Geale made his case as the second best 160-pounder in the world when he defeated Felix Sturm by split decision to unify two of the middleweight belts.

In two of Sturm's title defenses last year — against Britons Matthew Macklin and Martin Murray — the German was thought to be the beneficiary of a controversial split decision and draw, respectively, leading many to wonder whether the now 33-year-old was on the decline.

Sturm (37-3-2, 16 KOs) demonstrated that he can still fight but just didn't have enough to overcome Geale. Stanley Christodoulou of South Africa and Dave Parris of the United Kingdom both scored the bout 116-112 for Geale, while Eugene Grant of the United States had it 116-112 for Sturm. With the victory, his seventh straight since a controversial loss to Anthony Mundine in 2009, Geale added Sturm's WBA belt to his IBF title. It was Sturm's first loss in six years.

Sturm, known for his powerful jab, threw far fewer than he would have a few years ago. That allowed Geale, 31, to get inside and make a brawl of it. Sturm managed to get the better of the action for the first few rounds but Geale made his first statement toward the end of the third with a powerful right cross that penetrated Sturm's peekaboo guard, momentarily stunning him.

Sturm's left jab came alive in the fifth, allowing him to pressure Geale to the ropes and land right crosses, only to have Geale answer back with a sustained flurry of blows that stole back the momentum. With the cards narrowing down the stretch, Geale turned up the pressure and outworked his opponent to earn the decision.

"It's a dream come true but I was always confident I could come over here and beat Felix," Geale (28-1, 15 KOs) said afterward. "There were a couple of points in the fight where I hurt him with power shots and body shots. He's a great fighter, he's been at the top a long time, but I'm hungry."

Geale hopes he'll get the chance to feed on Martinez sometime soon.

–Ryan Songalia

Yoan Pablo Hernandez (left) escaped with a narrow points victory over a surprisingly tough **Troy Ross**. Image: **Photo Wende**

YOAN PABLO HERNANDEZ UD 12
TROY ROSS

DATE: SEPT. 15, 2012
SITE: STECHERT ARENA, BAMBERG, GERMANY
DIVISION: CRUISERWEIGHT
WEIGHTS: HERNANDEZ 200; ROSS 193¼
RING RATING (GOING INTO FIGHT): HERNANDEZ, CHAMPION; ROSS, UNRATED
NETWORK: BOXNATION (U.K.)

Yoan Pablo Hernandez might have enjoyed the benefits of fighting at home but Troy Ross made every minute uncomfortable, as Hernandez earned a debatable unanimous decision by scores of 116-112, 115-113 and 114-113. THE RING scored the bout 115-112 in favor of Ross.

Ross, 37, had fought a single eight-rounder since October 2010 and might've been forgiven if he had looked a bit rusty. Instead, he looked like a rejuvenated fighter, landing hard right hooks and purposeful body shots from the early going.

That right hook nearly snatched THE RING title away from Hernandez on its own, as a sweeping shot in the fifth round followed by three more punches sent the champ to the canvas. Hernandez managed to stand on unsteady legs and stagger his way through nearly half a round with Ross in hot pursuit until the bell sounded.

Hernandez (27-1, 13 KOs) fought his way back into the fight, throwing clever combinations as his opponent tried to maneuver to closer quarters. But the 31-year-old Cuban still ate enough significant power punches to make the middle rounds close. The 6-foot-4 Hernandez enjoyed a considerable height advantage but couldn't keep the 5-11½ Ross at bay.

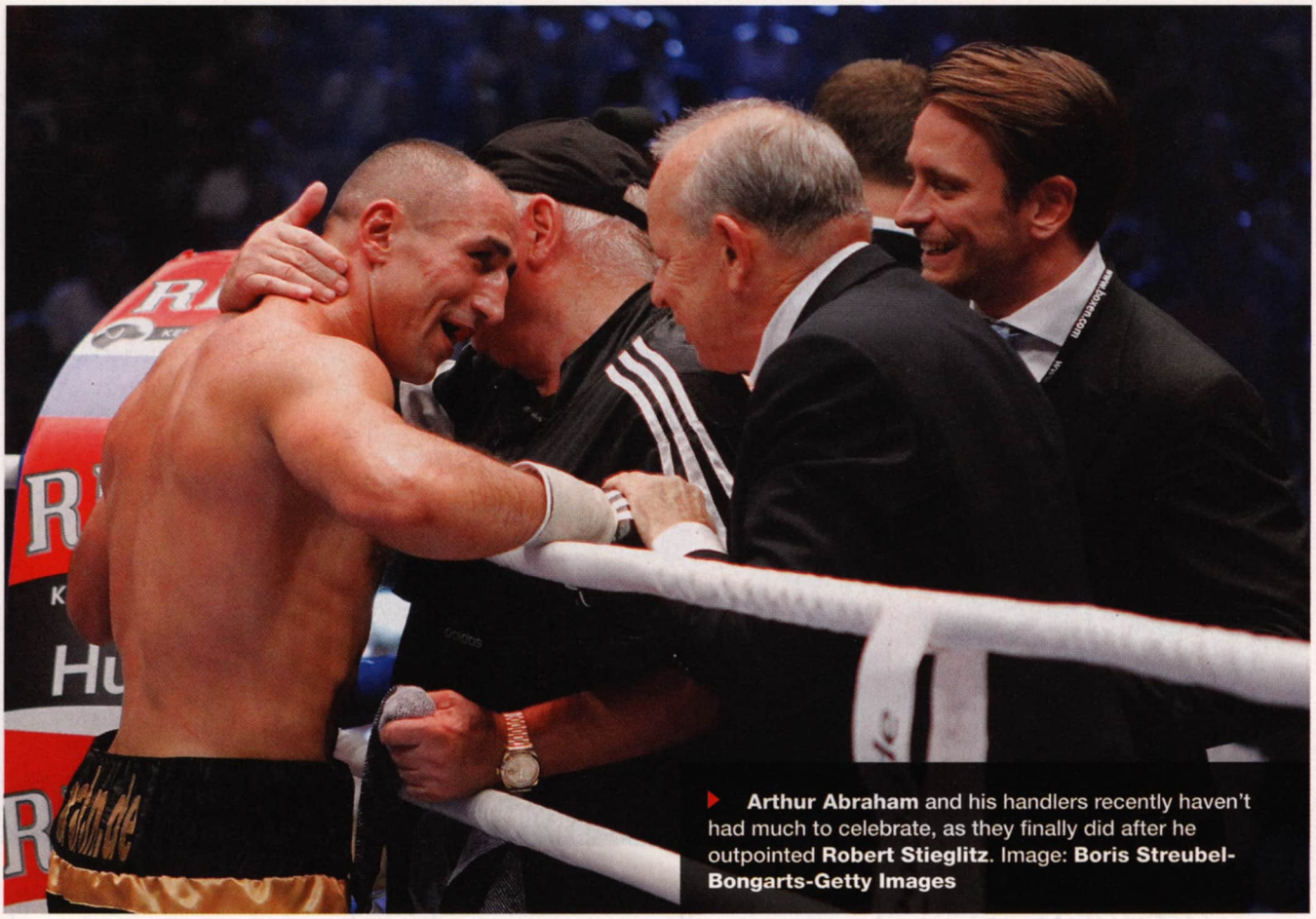
The action reached its apex in the ninth round, which will surely find its way into voting for the year's best. Ross staggered Hernandez again with a right hand midway through the round. However, as Ross tried to finish the job, Hernandez met him with a straight left that wobbled the challenger. As he did all night, Ross took control with another bomb with less than five seconds left in the round to put an exclamation mark on three of the best minutes in boxing this year.

The fight might've been decided in the final three rounds. Ross (25-3, 16 KOs) received some curious advice before the 10th round from his trainer and cousin, Chris Amos, who instructed him "not to slug" with Hernandez but to double his jab and box from the outside. The two-time Canadian Olympian did that successfully down the stretch but, playing into the taller man's game, he couldn't land the kind of eye-popping blows that help a fighter win decisions on the road.

After the fight, Hernandez's promoter, Wilfried Sauerland, told assembled media that a rematch could be in order and more or less admitted that Hernandez was fortunate.

"That was a very interesting and very exciting fight, and a lucky win for Pablo," said Sauerland. "A draw probably would have been more just."

–Corey Erdman



Arthur Abraham and his handlers recently haven't had much to celebrate, as they finally did after he outpointed **Robert Stieglitz**. Image: **Boris Streubel-Bongarts-Getty Images**

NO. 8 ARTHUR ABRAHAM UD 12 NO. 2 ROBERT STIEGLITZ

Arthur Abraham earned the big victory that has been so elusive, wresting the WBO super middleweight belt from hometown favorite Robert Stieglitz by unanimous decision — 116-112, 115-113 and 116-112 — on Aug. 25 in Berlin.

It was Abraham's first meaningful victory since his KO of Jermain Taylor in 2009.

Abraham's strategy was to conserve energy by allowing Stieglitz to fire regularly into his high guard and then unloading on his tired foe in the last minute of many rounds. Stieglitz ate a lot of shots yet kept coming for more, his face battered and bloodied by the end. He came in with a chinny reputation after knockout losses to Librado Andrade and Alejandro Berrio, but against the heavy-handed Abraham, he proved to be resilient.

Stieglitz (42-3, 23 KOs) was far more active than Abraham (35-3, 27 KOs) but the latter landed the more-damaging blows, which seemed to sway the judges.

NO. 1 LUCAS MATTHYSSE TKO 10 NO. 9 OLUSEGUN AJOSE

Lucas Matthysse pounded Olusegun Ajose into submission, scoring a 10th-round stoppage in the main event of Showtime Championship Boxing on Sept. 8 at the Hard Rock in Las Vegas.

The finish came at 2:59 when referee Russell Mora stopped the bout after Matthysse (32-2, 30 KOs) floored Ajose (30-1, 14 KOs) with consecutive rights. Ajose attempted to spring to his feet, but Mora prevented him from getting up to absorb more punishment.

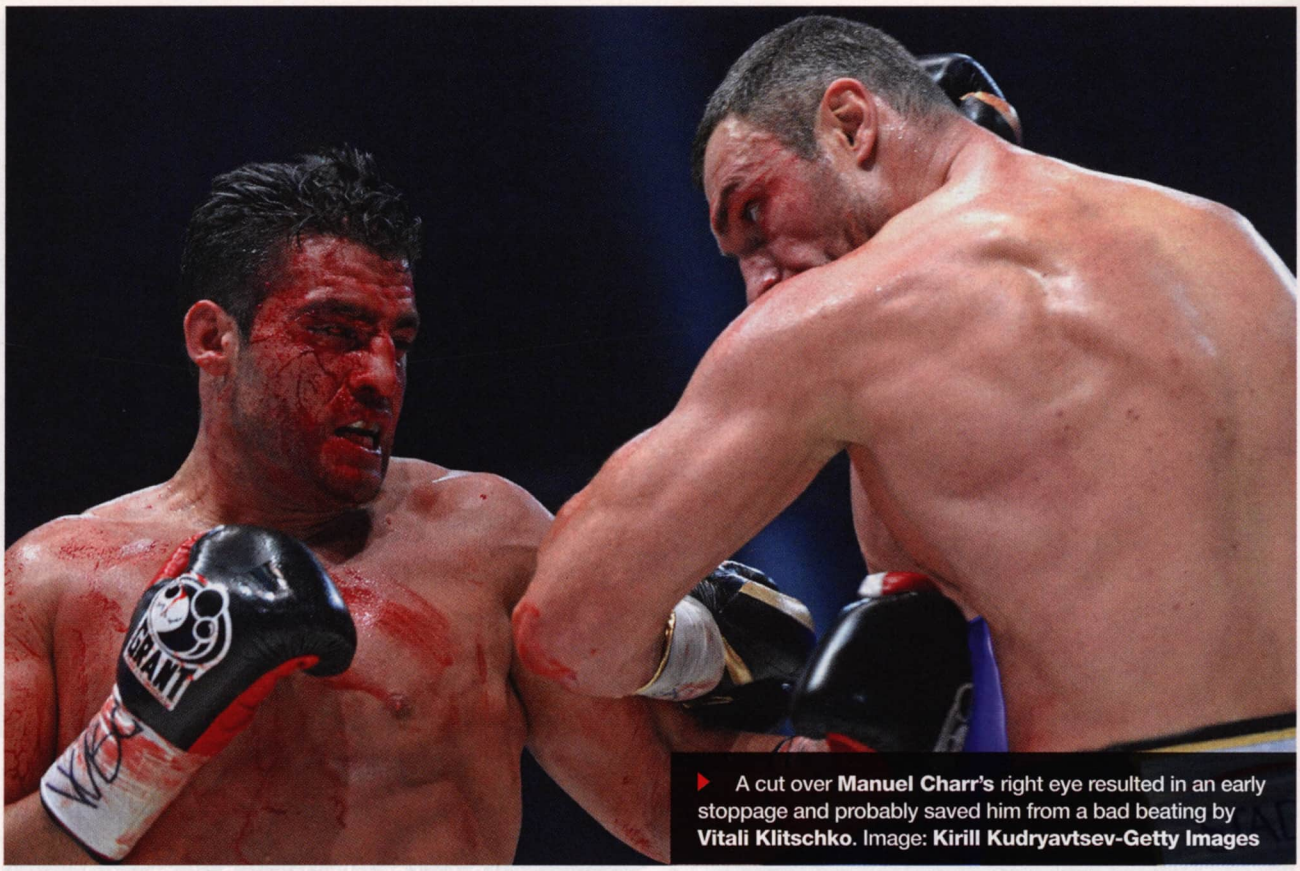
The fighters exchanged punches in the pocket much of the night, which didn't help the Nigerian's cause as Matthysse's heavy hands took their toll. Ajose's shots never seemed to affect 28-year-old Argentine, even when he tripled up the left hook.

The 28-year-old Argentine often threw double hooks to the midsection and then made Ajose pay upstairs. Matthysse landed a remarkable 48 percent of his power shots (32 of 67) in a big third round.

Ajose, 32, made a good account of himself in defeat, never wavering in his willingness to trade with a monstrous puncher. Matthysse could be on his way to pound-for-pound consideration with one or two high-profile victories.

NO. 1 VITALI KLITSCHKO TKO 4 MANUEL CHARR

Vitali Klitschko (45-2, 41 KOs) eradicated another unworthy title challenger, coasting to a fourth-round stoppage of unknown Manuel Charr on Sept. 8 in Moscow on HBO tape delay.



A cut over **Manuel Charr's** right eye resulted in an early stoppage and probably saved him from a bad beating by **Vitali Klitschko.** Image: **Kirill Kudryavtsev-Getty Images**

Klitschko, 41, dropped the no-hoper at the closing bell of the second round with a nice one-two down the pipe. Charr seemed to recover over the break but Klitschko began to give the 27-year-old German a steady diet of jabs and rights as soon as the fight resumed. A cut over Charr's right eyebrow forced the fight to be stopped at 2:04, sparing Charr from a beating.

Charr (21-1, 11 KOs) wildly protested the decision, showing far more passion than he had during his entire listless performance.

Klitschko hinted that this might be his last fight, but it's hard to believe he would go out against an opponent like Charr.

NO. 1 ANTONIO DEMARCO TKO 1 **NO. 6 JOHN MOLINA**

Antonio DeMarco made an emphatic statement on HBO, stopping durable lightweight challenger John Molina in just 44 seconds on the Andre Ward-Chad Dawson card Sept. 8 in Oakland, Calif.

DeMarco (28-2-1, 21 KOs) stunned Molina with a straight left less than 30 seconds into the fight. Molina (24-2, 19 KOs) staggered back to the ropes and the 26-year-old Mexican sensed the moment, jumped on his wobbled foe and unleashed with both hands until referee Jack Reiss stepped in and halted the bout.

Molina ended the fight covered up in a crouch, almost sitting on the next-to-bottom rope. The 29-year-old from Covina, Calif., never took a knee or tied up as DeMarco continued with his onslaught. DeMarco landed just eight shots. It was all he needed to end it.

Afterward, there was talk of DeMarco facing Adrien Broner in November on HBO.

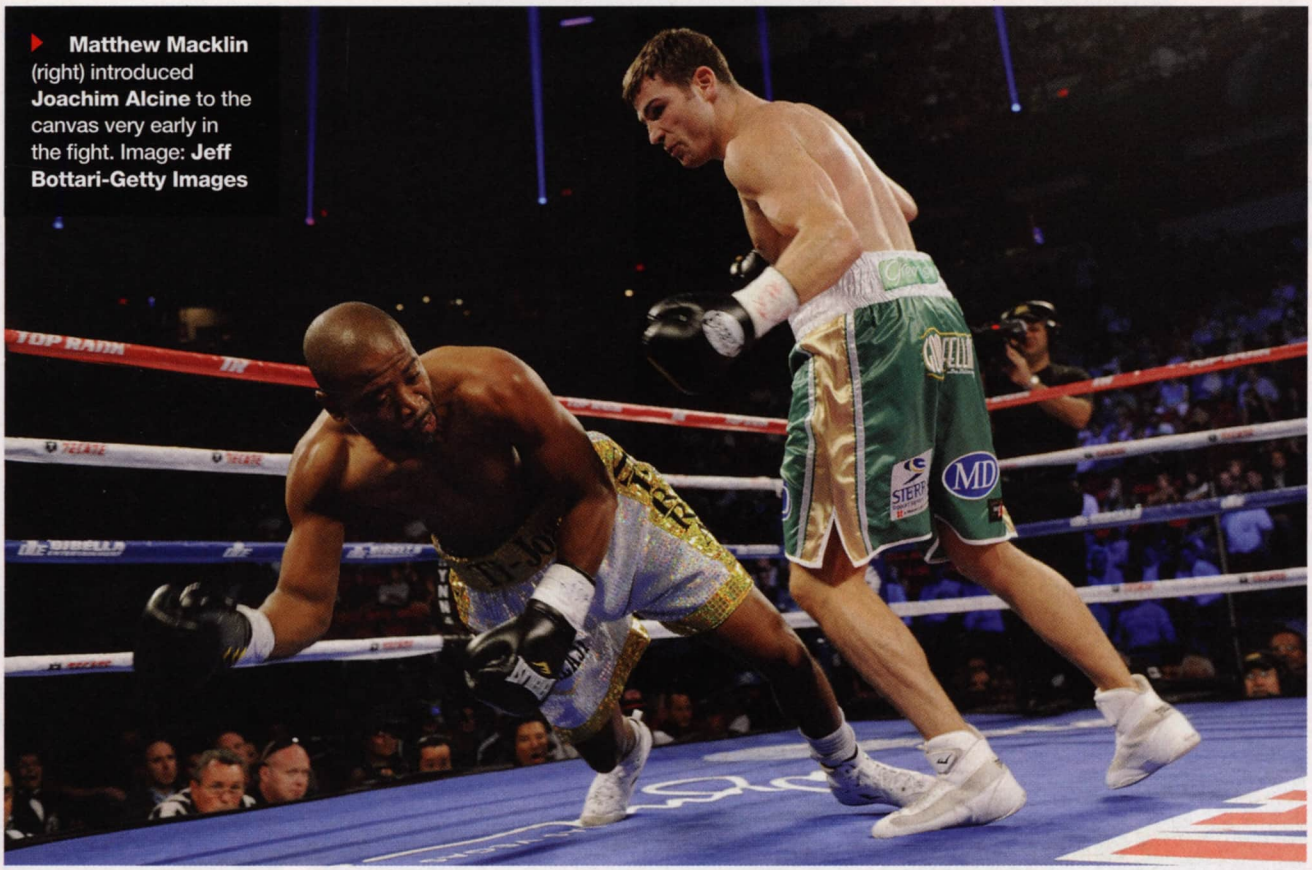
NO. 2 GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX UD 12 **ROBERT MARROQUIN**

Guillermo Rigondeaux successfully defended his WBA 122-pound title, dropping former top prospect Robert Marroquin twice en route to a wide unanimous decision win — 118-109, 118-108 and 118-109 — on the Martinez-Chavez card Sept. 15 in Las Vegas.

Marroquin (22-2, 15 KOs) gave a good account of himself considering he was a late replacement, stunning Rigondeaux a few times in the contest. But the two-time Olympic gold medalist from Cuba continued his ascent in the sport, showing off his deft movement and crisp counterpunching against another overmatched opponent.

Rigondeaux, 31, was stunned by a nice right hand in the third but recovered quickly, answering with overhand lefts. In the fifth, Rigondeaux returned the favor and raised his foe one, dropping the 23-year-old Dallas resident with a straight left.

Rigondeaux (11-0, 8 KOs) dropped Marroquin again in the final round, this time hurting him. He tried to finish Marroquin off but couldn't.



Matthew Macklin (right) introduced **Joachim Alcine** to the canvas very early in the fight. Image: **Jeff Bottari-Getty Images**

MARCOS MAIDANA TKO 8 JESUS SOTO KARASS

In a sure-fire fight of the year candidate, Argentine Marcos Maidana stopped fellow brawler Jesus Soto Karass in the eighth round on the Alvarez-Lopez card Sept. 15 in Las Vegas.

The welterweight war was fought on even terms until the seventh, when a big right hand dropped Soto Karass (26-8-3, 17 KOs) to the seat of his pants. The round ended before Maidana (32-3, 29 KOs) could land another hand on the 29-year-old Mexican, but he finished his work early in the eighth. Maidana, 29, landed several hard rights in the opening moments, prompting referee Kenny Bayless to stop the bout at 0:43.

The stoppage was controversial given that Soto Karass was throwing back and the fight was very close on the cards. At the time of the stoppage, Maidana, who had struggled in the middle rounds, was up 65-64 on two cards and 66-63 on the other.

The fight was filled with fouls. Soto Karass was deducted a point in the fourth for hitting on the break. Maidana was docked a point apiece in rounds four and seven for the same infraction.

Maidana, fighting for the first time under the tutelage of trainer Robert Garcia, seemed to be sharper than he had been in recent fights, and a good thing, too. He needed a win after his one-sided loss to Devon Alexander in February.

NO. 7 MATTHEW MACKLIN TKO 1 JOACHIM ALCINE

After his stoppage loss to Sergio Martinez in March, Matthew Macklin was intent on making a statement on the Martinez-Chavez card Sept. 15 in Las Vegas. And he did just that, erasing Joachim Alcine in just 2 minutes, 36 seconds.

The 30-year-old Irishman dropped Alcine (33-3-1, 19 KOs) twice with power shots and then finished him off with a barrage, which prompted referee Jay Nady to halt the punishment.

It was the second time in four fights that Alcine, 36, lasted less than a round. He was stopped by Alfredo Angulo in July 2010.

Macklin (29-4, 20 KOs) landed 31 of 61 shots while Alcine managed just 4 of 8. With the victory, Macklin is again a player in the loaded middleweight division.

NO. 8 DANIEL PONCE DE LEON TD 8 NO. 4 JHONNY GONZALEZ

Daniel Ponce de Leon earned a technical decision over Jhonny Gonzalez after a gash over Gonzalez's right eye, the result of a clash of heads, forced referee Kenny Bayless to halt the bout at 2:36 of round eight on the Alvarez-Lopez card Sept. 15 in Las Vegas.

Ponce de Leon (44-4, 35 KOs) was leading the featherweight bout by scores of 79-72, 76-74 and 79-72 when the fight was stopped.

Leo Santa Cruz (left) is becoming known for his vicious body shots, like this one against **Eric Morel**. Image: **Josh Hedges-Getty Images**

Gonzalez's southpaw stance caused the fighters' feet to tangle several times, leading to a few accidental butts. Both seemed wary of the other's power and were hesitant to trade for much of the fight. But in the sixth round, Ponce de Leon, 32, connected with a big left hand that sent Gonzalez, 31, crashing into the ropes. Gonzalez (52-8, 45 KOs) hadn't lost since 2009, when he was he was defeated by Toshiaki Nishioka.

NO. 4 ROMAN MARTINEZ SD 12 MIGUEL BELTRAN

Roman Martinez (26-1-1, 16 KOs) captured the vacant WBC 130-pound title with a split-decision victory over Miguel Beltran (27-2, 17 KOs) on the Martinez-Chavez card Sept. 15 in Las Vegas.

The scores were 114-113 and 114-113 for Martinez and 116-111 for Beltran. The fight would've been a draw had referee Russell Mora not taken a point from Beltran in the 11th for rabbit punching.

The fighters gave the fans another exciting brawl in the storied rivalry between Puerto Rico and Mexico. They stood toe-to-toe for most of the fight, with both Martinez and Beltran hurt at different points in the contest.

A rematch would seem to be in order.

NO. 7 LEO SANTA CRUZ TKO 5 NO. 5 ERIC MOREL

Leo Santa Cruz (21-0-1, 12 KOs) continued his rapid rise with another dominating performance, pounding veteran Eric Morel (46-4, 23 KOs) into submission in the fifth round on the Saul Alvarez-Josesito Lopez card Sept. 15 in Las Vegas.

The 24-year-old Rosemead, Calif., resident is gaining a reputation as one of the best body punchers in the sport and made mincemeat of Morel's midsection in the first defense of his IBF bantamweight strap.

He engaged Morel the entire fight, throwing a striking 509 punches in just five rounds and connecting on 277 (54 percent). Morel landed just 73 shots. Following the fifth round, Morel's corner stopped the contest, saving their 36-year-old charge from further damage. ■

Stands up to the job.™

Weighs 2.2 lbs so you can work all day without feeling it.

Sinks 207 2 1/2" drywall screws on a single charge.

3 LED lights provide visibility without shadows.

GUARANTEED TOUGH® with the features your jobsite demands.

The New 12V MAX* Lithium Ion System

DEWALT

visit www.dewalt.com/12VMAX

*Maximum initial battery pack voltage (measured without a workload) is 12 volts. Measured under a workload, nominal voltage is 10.8.

Copyright © 2010 DEWALT. The following are examples of trademarks for one or more DEWALT Power Tools and Accessories: The yellow and black color scheme; the "D" – shaped air intake grill; the array of pyramids on the handgrip; the kit box configuration; and the array of lozenge-shaped humps on the surface of the tool.

FIGHT RESULTS

THROUGH SEPTEMBER 16, 2012

Tomasz Adamek continues to beat everyone not named **Klitschko. The Pole** stopped **Travis Walker** in five rounds. Image: **Mike Greenhill**

HEAVYWEIGHTS

ALEXANDER FLORES KO 8 HENRY NAMAUU
FRES OQUENDO KO 7 ROBERT HAWKINS
BRIAN MINTO KO 4 MIKE SHEPPARD
RUSLAN CHAGAEV KO 7 WERNER KREISKOTT
FRANCESCO PIANETA W 10 FRANS BOTHA
VITALI KLITSCHKO KO 4 MANUEL CHARR
MAGOMED ABDUSALAMOV KO 2 JAMEEL MCCLINE
VYACHESLAV GLAZKOV W 10 KONSTANTIN AIRICH
FRANKLIN LAWRENCE KO 7 HOMERO FONSECA
MALIK SCOTT KO 8 BOWIE TUPOU
DEONTAY WILDER KO 2 DAMON MCCREARY
TOMASZ ADAMEK KO 5 TRAVIS WALKER
STEVE CUNNINGHAM W 10 JASON GAVERN
EDMUND GERBER KO 4 MICHAEL SPROTT

CRUISERWEIGHTS

KRZYSZTOF GLOWACKI KO 6 FELIPE ROMERO
DMYTRO KUCHER KO 5 GEOFFREY BATTELO
DANIEL AMMANN KO 9 PIETER CRONJE
TONY CONQUEST KO 7 IAN TIMS
JUHO HAAPOJA KO 4 FRANCESCO VERSACI
YOAN PABLO HERNANDEZ W 12 TROY ROSS
MATEUSZ MASTERNAK KO 8 DAVID QUINONERO

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

OTIS GRIFFIN KO 2 ADAM COLLINS
ROBIN KRASNIQI KO 4 SERDAR SAHIN
JACKSON JUNIOR KO 6 WALTER CRUCCE
JOEY VEGAS KO 4 KIRT SINNETTE
JONATHAN PROFICHET KO 1 DENIS SIMCIC
TONY BELLEW KO 9 EDISON MIRANDA
MIKE LEE W 4 PAUL HARNESS

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS

DON GEORGE KO 6 DIONISIO MIRANDA
EZEQUIEL MADERNA W 10 OSCAR DANIEL VELIZ
ARTHUR ABRAHAM W 12 ROBERT STIEGLITZ
ROGELIO MEDINA KO 6 LUIS SERRANO
PABLO FARIAS KO 8 DARIO BALMACEDA
MARCO ANTONIO RUBIO KO 4 CARLOS BALDOMIR
ANDRE WARD KO 10 CHAD DAWSON

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

SAM SOLIMAN W 12 GIOVANNI LORENZO
GILBERTO SANCHEZ W 10 RICHARD GUTIERREZ
DANIEL GEALE W 12 FELIX STURM
GENNADY GOLOVKIN KO 5 GRZEGORZ PROKSA
SERGEI DZINZIRUK D 12 JONATHAN GONZALEZ
(F) CHRISTINA HAMMER W 10 YAHAIRA HERNANDEZ
MARCOS REYES W 10 JULIO CESAR GARCIA
J'LEON LOVE DQ 8 RAMON VALENZUELA JR.
BILLY JOE SAUNDERS KO 2 JARROD FLETCHER
ROBERTO SANTOS KO 8 DOMINIK BRITSCH
MARCOS NADER W 10 DAMIEN BERTU
MATTHEW MACKLIN KO 1 JOACHIM ALCINE
SERGIO MARTINEZ W 12 JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ JR.

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS

(F) MIA ST. JOHN W 10 CHRISTY MARTIN
HENRY COYLE W 12 MARCELO RODRIGUEZ
CARLOS MOLINA W 10 DAMIAN FRIAS
GLEN TAPIA KO 1 FRANKLIN GONZALEZ
JACK CULCAY KO 3 FREDERIC SERRE
JORGE MELENDEZ KO 1 MILTON NUNEZ
PATRICK TEIXEIRA KO 8 OMAR VASQUEZ
ERICK OCHIENG KO 5 RYAN TOMS
DEMETRIUS HOPKINS W 8 DOEL CARRASQUILLO
ISHE SMITH W 10 IRVING GARCIA
LUCIANO CUELLO KO 11 SAMIR SANTOS BARBOSA
WILLIE NELSON W 10 JOHN JACKSON
SAUL ALVAREZ KO 5 JOSESITO LOPEZ

WELTERWEIGHTS

JOSE LOPEZ W 12 JOSE EMILIO PEREA
TIM HUNT W 12 CHARLIE KING
LANARDO TYNER KO 1 CHARLES HATLEY
ALAN SANCHEZ KO 10 MANUEL LEYVA
THOMAS DULORME W 10 YORYI ESTRELLA
CARLOS ABREGU KO 3 MARCO AVENDANO
LEE PURDY KO 4 GUMERSINDO CARRASCO
JESSIE VARGAS W 10 AARON MARTINEZ
JUAN URANGO KO 5 ONEY VALDEZ
MARCOS MAIDANA KO 8 JESUS SOTO KARASS

Marcos Maidana survived a grueling challenge when he stopped **Jesus Soto Karass**. Image: **Nick Laham-Golden Boy**

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS

JASON PAGARA KO 6 ROSBEL MONTOYA
JIMREX JACA KO 8 ANGEL MARTINEZ
PAUL SPADAFORA W 8 HUMBERTO TOLEDO
MAHONRI MONTES W 10 MIGUEL ANGEL LOPEZ
ASHLEY THEOPHANE W 8 RONNIE WARRIOR JR.
ROBERTO ORTIZ KO 2 FLORENCIO CASTELLANO
(F) FERNANDA ALEGRE KO 7 DARYS ESTHER PARDO
LUCAS MATTHYSSE KO 10 OLUSEGUN AJOSE

LIGHTWEIGHTS

CHRIS GOODWIN W 12 ISTVAN KISS
ALEJANDRO SANABRIA KO 8 SEIICHI OKADA
RENE GONZALEZ W 11 RICARDO ALVAREZ
MICHAEL PEREZ W 10 FIDEL MALDONADO JR.
ANTONIO DEMARCO KO 1 JOHN MOLINA
LUIS RAMOS JR. KO 8 NOE BOLANOS
JOSE FELIX JR. W 10 LUIS CRUZ

Roman Martinez (left) and **Miguel Beltran Jr.** engaged in a spirited war. Image: **Naoki Fukuda**

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

JUAN CARLOS SALGADO W 12 JONATHAN BARROS
JOEL DIAZ KO 2 GUILLERMO SANCHEZ
VICENTE MARTIN RODRIGUEZ KO 7 OSCAR PEREYRA
DAIKI KANEKO KO 2 MICHIYA SATO
ALBERTO GARZA KO 9 NERY SAGUILAN
MIGUEL BERCHELT KO 2 BERMAN SANCHEZ
LOGAN MCGUINNESS W 10 KRZYSZTOF SZOT
SERGIO THOMPSON KO 2 CARLOS CLAUDIO
ROMAN MARTINEZ W 12 MIGUEL BELTRAN JR.

FEATHERWEIGHTS

JUN DOLIGUEZ KO 2 ARIEL DELGADO
EDGAR RAMIREZ KO 1 EDGAR LLANES
JESUS CUELLAR KO 2 CLAUDIO TAPIA
MIKEY GARCIA KO 2 MAURICIO PASTRANA
(F) MELISSA HERNANDEZ W 10 JELENA MRDJENOVICH
DANIEL PONCE DE LEON TECH. WIN 8 JHONNY GONZALEZ

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

(F) JACKIE NAVA KO 3 LISA BROWN
GENESIS SERVANIA W 12 JORGE PAZOS
DAIKI KAMEDA W 10 MIKE TAWATCHAI
TOMOKI KAMEDA W 10 MONICO LAURENTE
MACBUTE SINYABI W 12 OSCAR CHAUKE
MALCOLM TUNACAO W 8 MARTIN MUBIRU
GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX W 12 ROBERT MARROQUIN

BANTAMWEIGHTS

HENRY MALDONADO DQ 4 LUIS GARCIA
ALBERT PAGARA W 8 ALVIN MAKILING
EDEN SONSONA KO 2 PETCHNAMNUNG SITHSAITHONG
RANDY CABALLERO W 10 MANUEL ROMAN
DIEGO SANTILLAN W 12 LUCAS CARRANZA
IMMANUEL NAIDJALA TECH. WIN 8 LUIS SINGO
LEO SANTA CRUZ KO 5 ERIC MOREL
ANGKY ANGKOTA W 12 JEMMY GOBEL

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS

RODRIGO GUERRERO KO 5 JONATHAN RAMOS
FERNANDO LUMACAD KO 3 RONNIE SUNIDO
MANUEL VIDES KO 4 JULIO ESCUDERO
ROBERTO DOMINGO SOSA W 12 ZOLANI TETE
TEPPARITH SINGWANCHA W 12 NOBUO NASHIRO
JOSE SALGADO KO 1 FIDEL COLMENARES
IVAN MORALES TECH. WIN 10 LUIS MALDONADO
EFRAIN PEREZ KO 9 HUMBERTO HERNANDEZ

FLYWEIGHTS

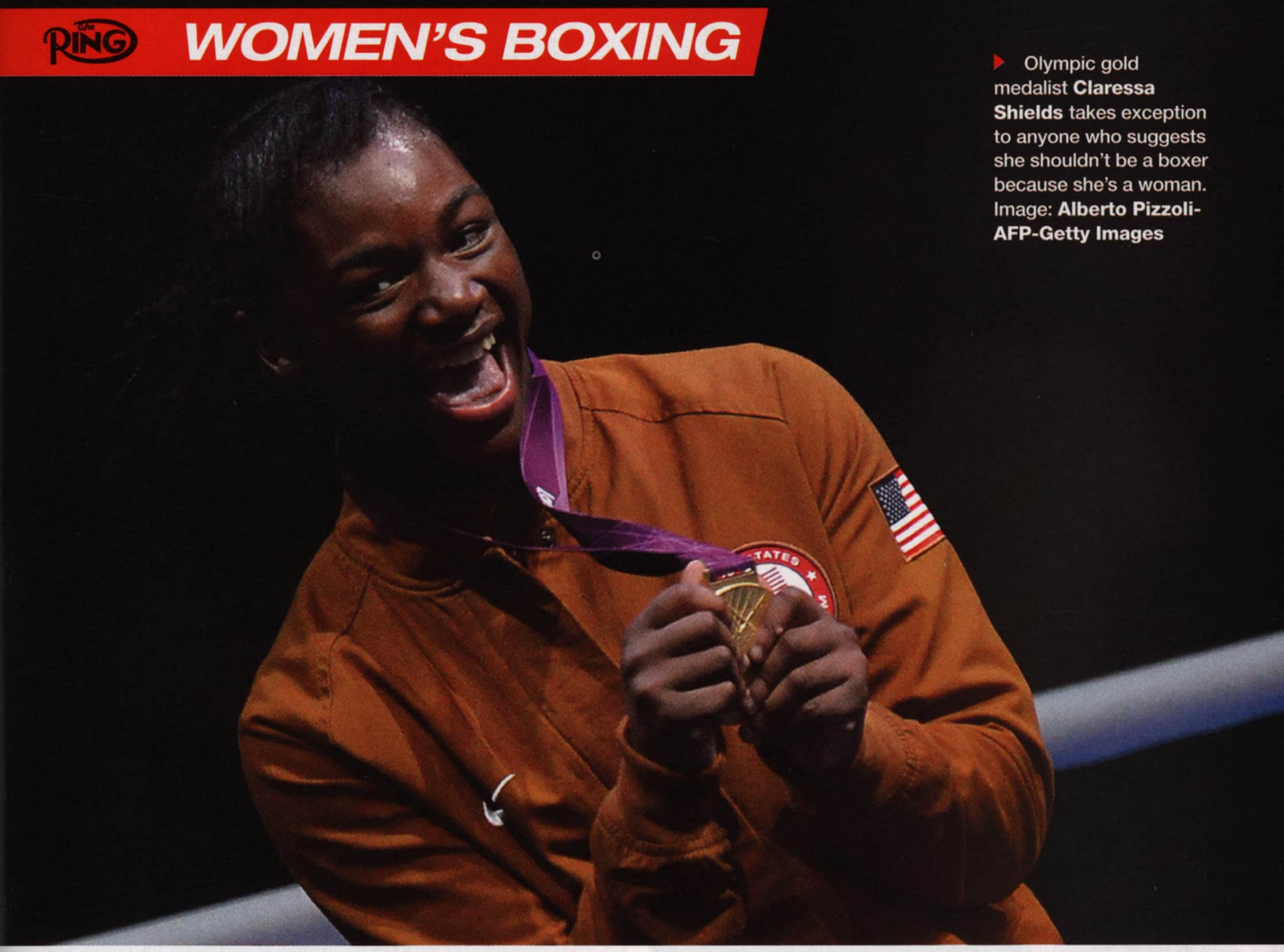
RUSALEE SAMOR W 12 ROMNICK MAGOS
CESAR GANDARA KO 9 VICTOR VAZQUEZ
JUAN ESTRADA KO 9 GERMAN MERAZ
KWANPICHIT 13 RIEN EXPRESS W 12 FERNANDO OCON
WILBERT UICAB W 12 IVAN DIAZ
PONGSAKLEK WONJONGKAM W 12 HYOBU NAKAGAMA
(F) NADIA RAOUI W 10 SAMSON TOR BUAMAS
MORUTI MTHALANE KO 8 RICARDO NUNEZ
LUIS CONCEPCION W 8 PABLO CARRILLO
YODMONGKOL VOR SAENGTHEP KO 4 ASAD ASIF KHAN
PAIPHAROB KOKIETGYM W 12 WANG XIN HUA
OMAR SOTO W 12 GLENN DONAIRE

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS

ALBERTO ROSSEL W 12 KARLUIS DIAZ
JOSE ZUNIGA KO 2 JOSE MARTINEZ

STRAWWEIGHTS

MARIO RODRIGUEZ KO 7 NKOSINATHI JOYI
PIGMY KOKIETGYM KO 3 WANG XIN YU
(F) ETSUKO TADA W 10 NAOKO SHIBATA



Olympic gold medalist **Claressa Shields** takes exception to anyone who suggests she shouldn't be a boxer because she's a woman. Image: **Alberto Pizzoli-AFP-Getty Images**

MISGUIDED CONCERN

THOSE WHO BELIEVE WOMEN SHOULDN'T BOX ARE ASKING FOR A FIGHT

By **Ryan Songalia**

The *New York Post* published a column by Linda Chavez in August calling for the elimination of women's boxing from the Olympics following its debut this summer. Chavez singled out U.S. Olympian Claressa Shields, who took home the inaugural middleweight gold.

Chavez's points? "Women are life-givers — not life-takers," she writes. "Is there no evolutionary advantage in having half the population play a gentler, more nurturing role?" Chavez goes on to say that she worries more women will pick up the sport in the wake of Shields' triumph.

Chavez's latter concern is duly founded. Shields, who intends to remain an amateur as she finishes high school and pursues college with dreams of becoming a photojournalist, is the kind of poster child women's boxing needs to gain the acceptance men have enjoyed over the last century. Many young women are likely to follow her into the sport, just as Olympians Sugar Ray Leonard and Oscar De La Hoya inspired young men in their time.

The 17-year-old Shields, from Flint, Mich., says plenty of detractors with similar viewpoints had advised her to give up boxing.

"People were telling me that I should stick to school," she said. "Even one of my uncles told me that I'm living in the moment, and that once I win a gold medal, that's going to be it and I won't make any money."

Luckily for Shields, she didn't listen. "If you're dedicated to something and you put the time in, why

should anyone have an opinion on it?" she said. "Half of the people who comment about women's boxing don't even watch it."

It's important to note that boxing isn't solely about "brutality," as Chavez describes it, but outfoxing your opponent with strategy and skill. Amateur boxing in particular, with fewer rounds, bigger gloves and headgear, is much less about inflicting damage than it is a game of aggressive chess. Ultimately, all combatants are fully aware of the risks involved.

Women have fought hard for equality and have gained ground by fighting for the same rights enjoyed by men and have pushed for freedom of choice over traditional gender roles. As a result, women today holding public office, earn large salaries and even write newspaper columns.

"Not all girls want to lay around and have kids," Shields said. "People want to have a life where they can do what they want and have kids down the line, or go to college and have some fun."

One of the many women who have actively fought for equal rights in boxing is Sonya Lamonakis, a 6-0-2 professional heavyweight from the Astoria section of Queens, N.Y. While competing as an amateur during the last decade, Lamonakis wrote three letters to the International Olympic Committee demanding women be included in the Games and receive equal treatment in tournaments. Lamonakis and many others who fought for the cause won't get a chance to reap the benefits but are nonetheless proud of the progress being made.

Lamonakis has dueling lives: She trains evenings as a boxer at Gleason's Gym in Brooklyn after working as an elementary school teacher in Harlem during the day. As an educated woman, she is undoubtedly aware of the risks and challenges that go along with her profession.

"Saying that women's boxing should be banned from the Olympics is ludicrous," said Lamonakis, 37. "Just like in the Progressive Era, women had to push and fight for their right in society to not just have to be housewives. This will be another fight the women will have, and we are already winning this fight.

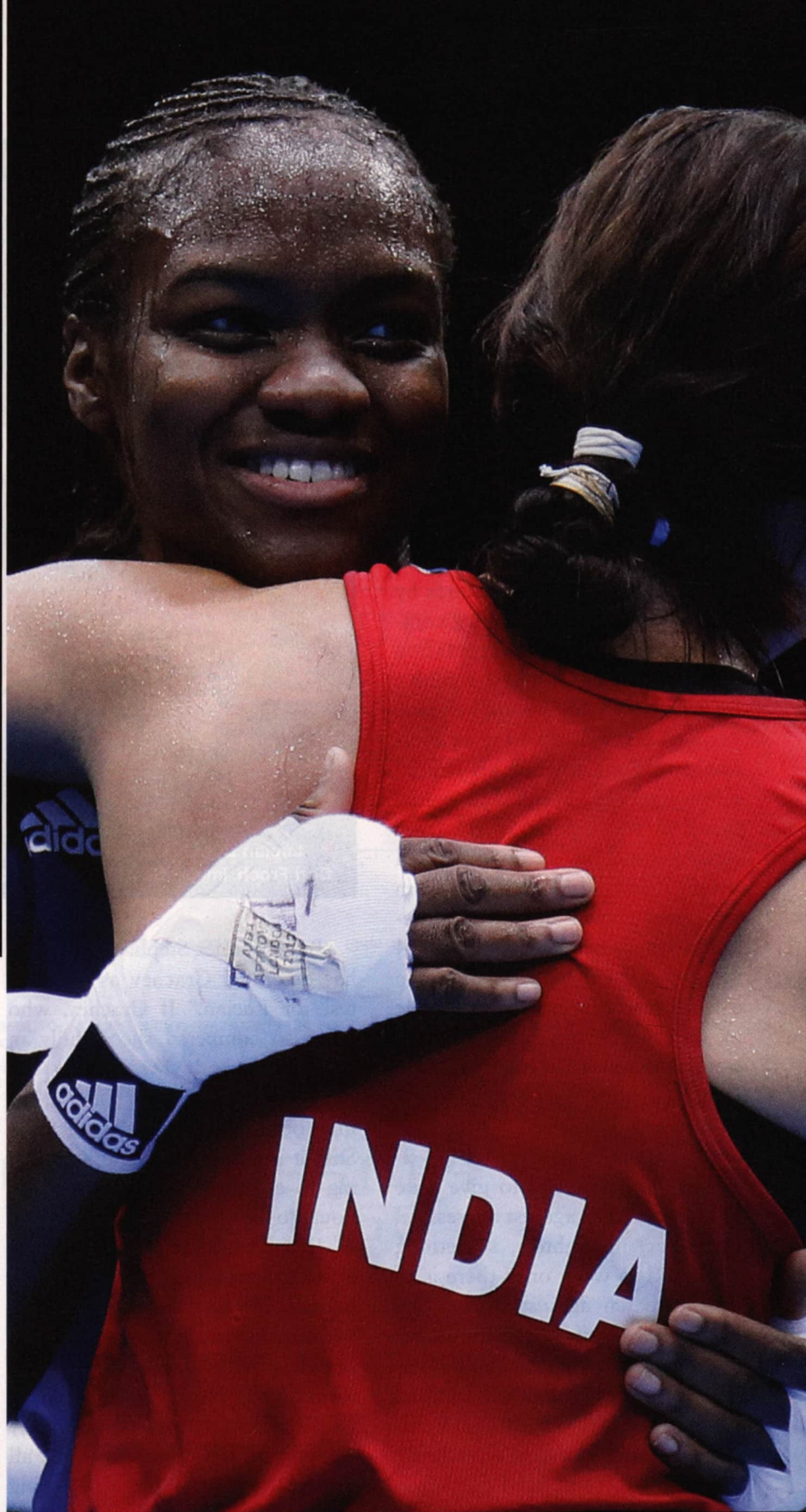
If there are people in Ireland who object to gold medalist **Katie Taylor's** choice of activities, their numbers are dwarfed by the vast majority of her countrymen who have fully embraced her. Image: **Scott Heavey-Getty Images**

"Sure they say we are life givers not takers, but guess what, most women can multi-task and be life givers and fighters. Boxing is not a life-taking sport. Boxing is not a violent sport; it's an art, a dance, a science. Sometimes the smarter boxer wins and sometimes the stronger boxer wins.

"Of course aggression is a feminine quality. It's a quality that exists in human beings whether they are men or women."

Women in the sport continue to fight for equality with their male counterparts in television time, competitive purses and mainstream acceptance.

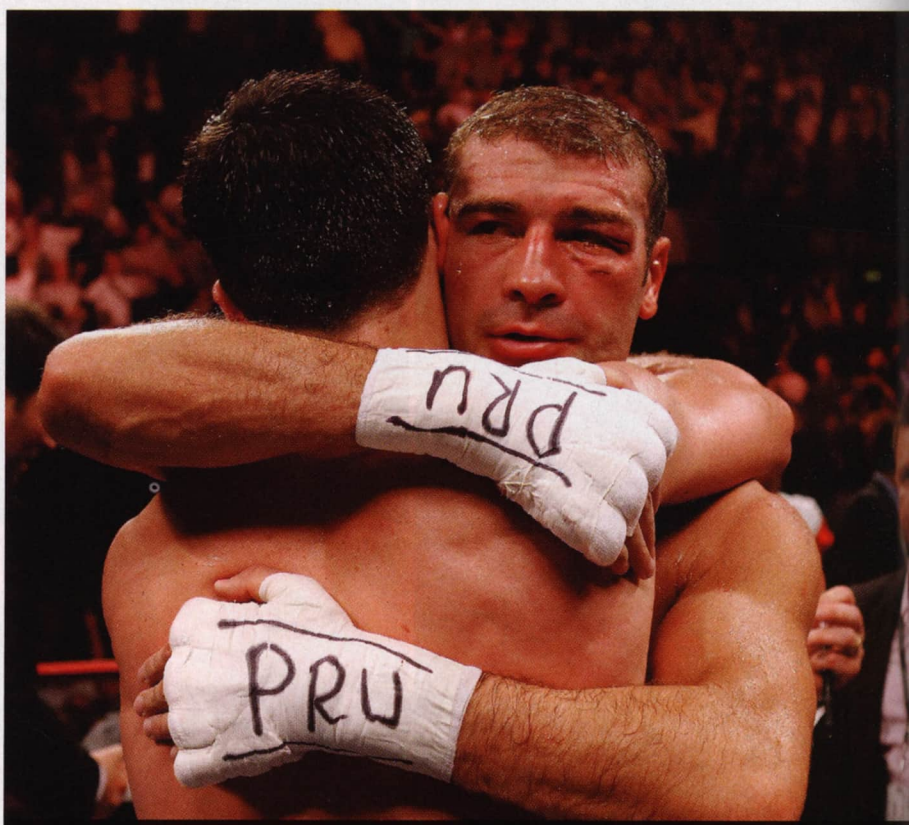
But the important thing is they continue to fight. ■



Win or lose, the women boxers shared something special at the London Games. Here, **Nicola Adams** of Great Britain (facing camera) and **Mary Kom** of India embrace after Adams won their semi-final match. Image: **Jack Guez-AFP-Getty Images**

BACK ON THE HORSE

By **Don Stradley**



Lucian Bute had to wonder what hit him after his stunning knockout loss to **Carl Froch**. Image: **Scott Heavey-Getty Images**

Lucian Bute might say that being stopped in five rounds by Carl Froch was nothing compared to the beating his reputation has taken in the last few months. By Bute's own admission, he made "critical errors" last May in Nottingham, England, but his candid self-evaluation hasn't prevented many in the boxing world from writing Bute off as an overrated fighter who had benefited from smart promotion and carefully selected opponents. Bute (30-1, 24 knockouts) will take his first step toward restoring his status as one of the sport's top super middleweights when he returns to face Denis Grachev on Nov. 3 at the Montreal Bell Center.

The selection of Grachev (12-0-1, 8 KOs) was made to give Bute more experience against aggressive, hard-charging fighters, something he'll need to work on if there is to be a rematch against Froch. The Russian's last effort saw him score an impressive eighth-round stoppage of Ismayl Sillakh in one of the upsets of the year. In that bout, Grachev came forward relentlessly despite being outboxed for seven rounds, until connecting with a hard right hand that led to Sillakh's downfall. It was the stuff Rocky movies are made from.

Bute's trainer, Stephan Larouche, has described Grachev as "a good test for Lucian." If Grachev, who has also competed successfully in kick-boxing and MMA, comes out firing as he did against Sillakh, we may be in for a pretty good fight. Still, it is hard to imagine Bute losing to a fighter with only 13 pro bouts to his credit.

Despite his fumble in England, Bute is better than his detractors believe. He blew it against Froch because he made the mistake of brawling with a man who clearly loves a good brawl.

"I did not use my primary weapons of speed and my jab at all during the fight," Bute said during the post-fight press conference. "I fought Carl Froch's fight instead of dictating the pace and forcing him to fight my fight. It was a bad night for me in Nottingham. A nightmare, really. I lost my IBF belt, my perfect record and I suffered a hard loss. I cannot wait to step back into the ring."

ALSO

The Nov. 3 undercard features a 12-round junior welterweight bout between Pier-Olivier Cote and Ali Chebah. That same night in Sendai, Japan, WBC bantamweight titlist Shinsuke Yamanaka defends against Tomas Rojas, while WBC flyweight king Toshiyuki Igarashi battles Nestor Narvaes.

Also on Nov. 3, Marco Huck defends his cruiserweight title against Firat Arslan in Halle, Germany. On Nov. 17, Carl Froch defends his IBF super middleweight title against Yusaf Mack in Nottingham. ■

GET 6 ISSUES FOR $26.83

3 ISSUES FREE

SPECIAL HOLIDAY DISCOUNT
PROMO CODE: 6301NC

NAME

ADDRESS / APT

CITY / STATE / ZIP

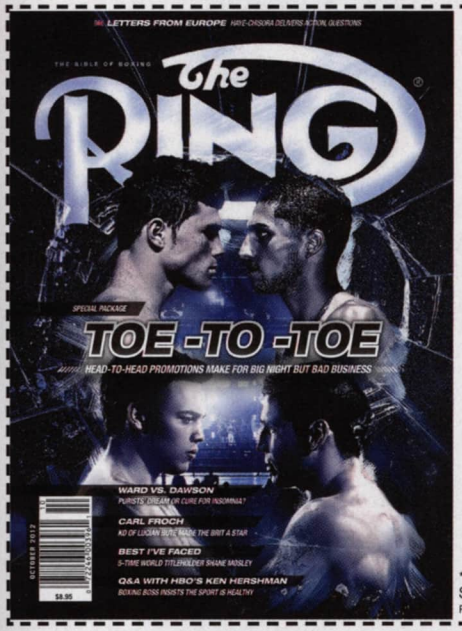
EMAIL TELEPHONE

PAYMENT METHOD: ☐CHECK / MONEY ORDER (ENCLOSED & PAYABLE TO SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT PUBLICATIONS LLC) ☐VISA ☐MASTERCARD ☐AMEX

CARD # / EXP. DATE 3 OR 4 DIGIT SECURITY CODE SIGNATURE

MAIL TO: SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT PUBLICATIONS LLC, P.O. BOX 433122, PALM COAST, FL 32164-3122
OR CALL: 1.800.846.6438 **OR EMAIL:** thering@emailcustomerservice.com

*FOR CANADA & MEXICO: $42.00 FOR 6 ISSUES; $69.50 FOR ONE YEAR; $101.50 FOR TWO YEARS. ALL OTHER COUNTRIES: $68.00 FOR 6 ISSUES; $125.00 FOR ONE YEAR; $188.50 FOR TWO YEARS. INTERNATIONAL MONEY ORDERS ONLY IN U.S. FUNDS ONLY. AIRMAIL SHIPPING ONLY OUTSIDE THE U.S. PLEASE ALLOW UP TO EIGHT (8) WEEKS BEFORE YOU RECEIVE YOUR FIRST MAGAZINE. OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/12.



GET 12 ISSUES FOR $44.75

7 ISSUES FREE

SPECIAL HOLIDAY DISCOUNT
PROMO CODE: 6301NC

NAME

ADDRESS / APT

CITY / STATE / ZIP

EMAIL TELEPHONE

PAYMENT METHOD: ☐CHECK / MONEY ORDER (ENCLOSED & PAYABLE TO SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT PUBLICATIONS LLC) ☐VISA ☐MASTERCARD ☐AMEX

CARD # / EXP. DATE 3 OR 4 DIGIT SECURITY CODE SIGNATURE

MAIL TO: SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT PUBLICATIONS LLC, P.O. BOX 433122, PALM COAST, FL 32164-3122
OR CALL: 1.800.846.6438 **OR EMAIL:** thering@emailcustomerservice.com

*FOR CANADA & MEXICO: $42.00 FOR 6 ISSUES; $69.50 FOR ONE YEAR; $101.50 FOR TWO YEARS. ALL OTHER COUNTRIES: $68.00 FOR 6 ISSUES; $125.00 FOR ONE YEAR; $188.50 FOR TWO YEARS. INTERNATIONAL MONEY ORDERS ONLY IN U.S. FUNDS ONLY. AIRMAIL SHIPPING ONLY OUTSIDE THE U.S. PLEASE ALLOW UP TO EIGHT (8) WEEKS BEFORE YOU RECEIVE YOUR FIRST MAGAZINE. OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/12.

GET 24 ISSUES FOR $80.55

15 ISSUES FREE

SPECIAL HOLIDAY DISCOUNT
PROMO CODE: 6301NC

NAME

ADDRESS / APT

CITY / STATE / ZIP

EMAIL TELEPHONE

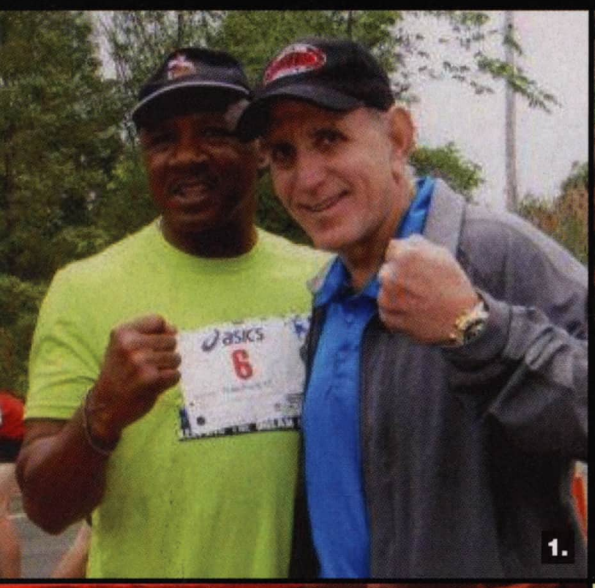
PAYMENT METHOD: ☐CHECK / MONEY ORDER (ENCLOSED & PAYABLE TO SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT PUBLICATIONS LLC) ☐VISA ☐MASTERCARD ☐AMEX

CARD # / EXP. DATE 3 OR 4 DIGIT SECURITY CODE SIGNATURE

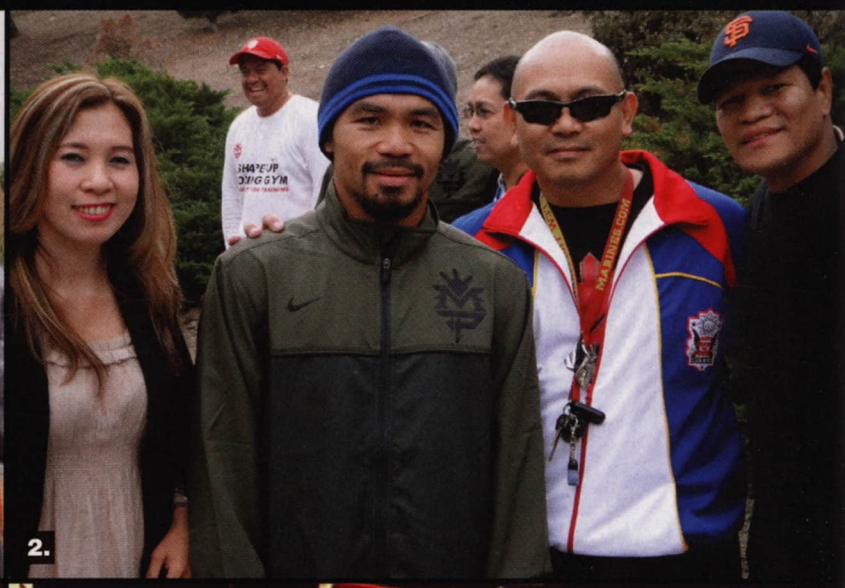
MAIL TO: SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT PUBLICATIONS LLC, P.O. BOX 433122, PALM COAST, FL 32164-3122
OR CALL: 1.800.846.6438 **OR EMAIL:** thering@emailcustomerservice.com

*FOR CANADA & MEXICO: $42.00 FOR 6 ISSUES; $69.50 FOR ONE YEAR; $101.50 FOR TWO YEARS. ALL OTHER COUNTRIES: $68.00 FOR 6 ISSUES; $125.00 FOR ONE YEAR; $188.50 FOR TWO YEARS. INTERNATIONAL MONEY ORDERS ONLY IN U.S. FUNDS ONLY. AIRMAIL SHIPPING ONLY OUTSIDE THE U.S. PLEASE ALLOW UP TO EIGHT (8) WEEKS BEFORE YOU RECEIVE YOUR FIRST MAGAZINE. OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/12.

CLOSE CALL: Sugar Ray Robinson (left) was only 21 when this photo was taken on May 28, 1942, the day he fought Marty Servo at Madison Square Garden in New York City. Robinson never lost to a fellow welterweight, although he came close in this fight. He won a split decision but, according to *The New York Times*, many in attendance felt Servo was cheated. Servo would go on to win the world welterweight title. Robinson would go on to become the greatest fighter ever. THE RING will select a photo from its vast archive each month to publish in the magazine.



1.



2.

3.

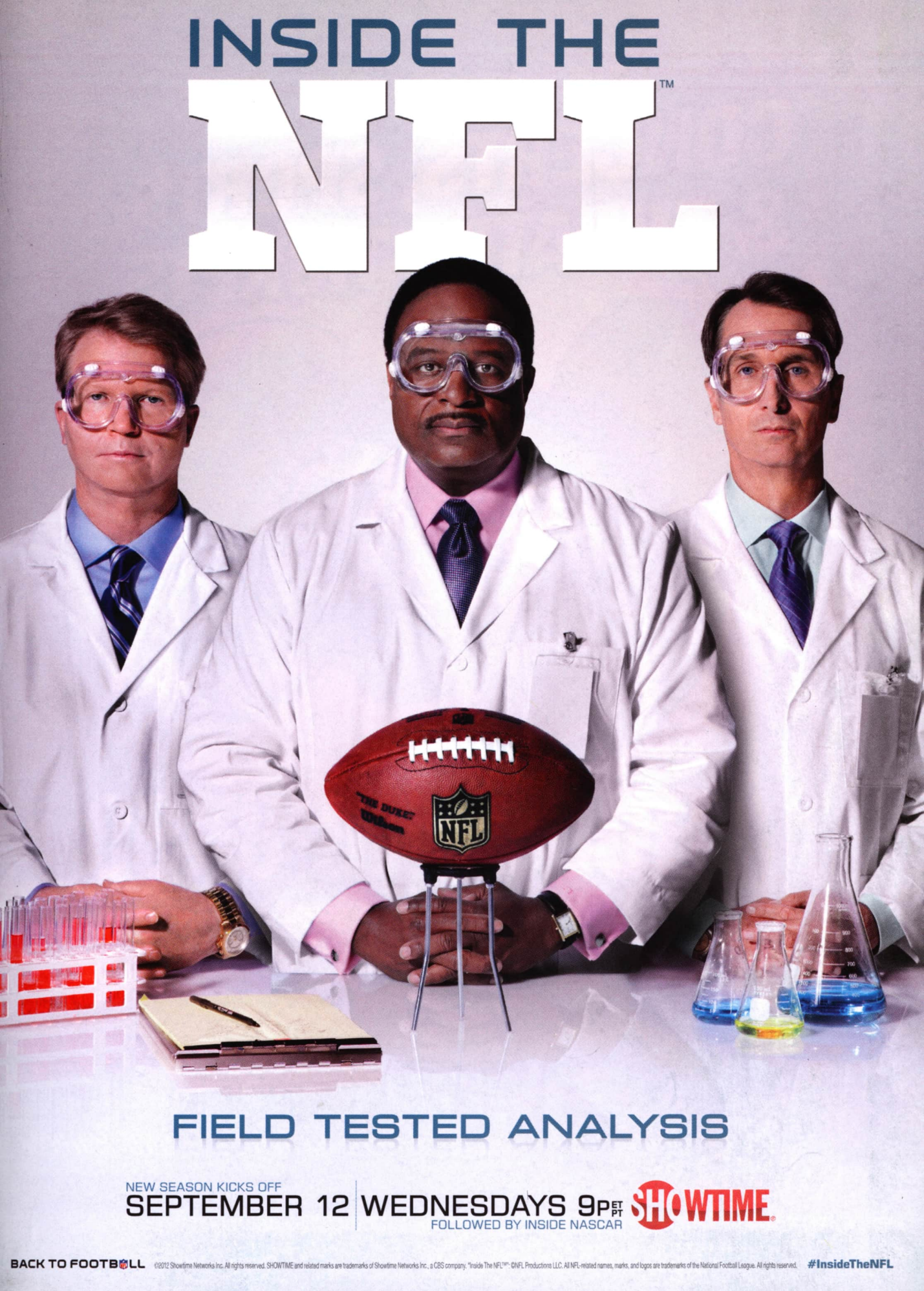
4.

1. Craig Donoff (right) with Marvin Hagler. 2. Manny Pacquiao with (from left to right) Ann Mariano, Glenn Mariano and former WBA bantamweight titleholder Luisito Espinosa. 3. Frankie and Christian Carto with Freddie Roach at *Friday Night Fights* in Philadelphia. 4. Gilbert Rodriguez with Shane Mosley at the 2009 Bernard Hopkins-Enrique Ornelas fight in Philadelphia. 5. Hilda Bermudez with Marco Antonio Barrera in Ensenada, Mexico.

WANT TO SEE YOURSELF IN RING MAGAZINE?

Send us your photos from a fight with you posing next to a celebrity, athlete, or other famous person and we will consider it for publication in the magazine. Send photos to **celebrityphotos@sepublications.com.** Make sure to include your name(s), celebrity name(s), the fight attended, and your contact information. See you at the fights!

5.


INSIDE THE
NFL™
FIELD TESTED ANALYSIS
NEW SEASON KICKS OFF
SEPTEMBER 12 | WEDNESDAYS 9P ET PT
FOLLOWED BY INSIDE NASCAR
SHOWTIME.
BACK TO FOOTBALL
©2012 Showtime Networks Inc. All rights reserved. SHOWTIME and related marks are trademarks of Showtime Networks Inc., a CBS company. "Inside The NFL™": ©NFL Productions LLC. All NFL-related names, marks, and logos are trademarks of the National Football League. All rights reserved.
#InsideTheNFL

CONCERTS, SPORTS & THEATER TICKETS

(800) 348-8499

ALL MLB, NBA, NFL, NCAA, NASCAR, SUPER BOWL, FINAL FOUR, ALL STAR GAME & ALL MAJOR SPORTING EVENTS

www.BarrysTickets.com

WWW BARRYS TICKETS .COM

Great Tickets! Great Service! Great Prices!

Call (800) 348-8499 or visit BarrysTickets.com for great deals on concerts, sports and theater tickets, local & nationwide!